The Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities (VBCF) provide cutting-edge research infrastructure and expertise that form the foundation of groundbreaking discoveries at the Vienna BioCenter (VBC), home to multiple research institutes (including IMP, IMBA, GMI, Max Perutz Labs, University of Vienna Biology Building), companies, and around 2,000 scientists. Situated at the VBC campus, the VBCF GmbH provides scientific services to research on campus and beyond, supported by the extensive expertise of over 80 trained scientists and technicians. The VBCF is currently seeking a:

Head of Plant Sciences Core Facility (f/m/d, full-time)

for our Plant Sciences team. This role involves advancing our cutting-edge research in high-throughput plant phenotyping, while also overseeing the maintenance and optimization of phytotrons to support essential plant growth and experimental services. A detailed overview of our offered services can be found on our website.

Key responsibilities

- Lead and manage a state-of-the-art, multi-sensor, high-throughput plant phenotyping research infrastructure - #PHENOPlant.
- Lead and further develop a diverse service portfolio: high-throughput plant phenotyping - technology development (prototyping) - software development - data analysis.
- Lead and evaluate scientific projects to drive innovations in plant phenotyping, focusing on high-throughput data acquisition and image processing.
- Coordinate and further develop the Austrian Plant Phenoytping Network (APPN) supporting the EU ESFRI EMPHASIS project.
- Oversee the routine operation and maintenance of phytotrons and glasshouses, ensuring optimal plant growth conditions for research.
- Manage lab organization and instrument maintenance to ensure efficient workflows and consistent service quality.
- Develop and implement new protocols to enhance the facility's service offerings in plant sciences.
- Train and guide an interdisciplinary team, fostering a collaborative and customer-oriented environment.
- Engage with national and international customers to understand their scientific needs and provide impactful research support. Carry out business development and new customer acquisition.

Key requirements

- Postdoc-level scientist (preferably with >3 years of experience after completing PhD) in plant sciences or related fields, with a strong background in research and project management, along with demonstrated leadership skills.
- Experience in plant phenotyping and managing data-heavy, image-intensive projects highly desired.
- Expertise in developing and benchmarking protocols for plant research and phytotron maintenance in a core facility or similar setting.
- Visionary mindset to enhance plant science services while effectively managing routine operations.
- Highly organized and detail-oriented, with an independent work style.
- Collaborative and adaptable to dynamic work environments, with a strong focus on customer needs.
- Excellent command of English is required; proficiency in German is a plus.

Your benefits

Ranked among the world's most livable cities, Vienna offers an inspiring environment for scientists, with its world-class research, vibrant international community, rich cultural heritage, and high quality of life. We offer an unlimited contract and an attractive compensation package including subsidized access to our company crèche and kindergarten, the annual pass of the "Wiener Linien" (Vienna public transport), the VBC social & sports program, the annual inflation compensation of the salary, and flexible working hours. The actual remuneration will depend on your scientific expertise and professional experience.

How to apply

Please send your CV, contact details of three referees and a letter of interest, to apply@vbcf.ac.at and include in the email subject "*CF_Head_Plants_2024*". Interviews will be held as soon as possible. For further information about the position, please contact Simone Obermeier (simone.obermeier@vbcf.ac.at). Application deadline: January 31st, 2025.

As an employer, we promote a culture of continuous learning and are committed to gender equality. VBCF processes your personal data in accordance with the statutory data protection regulations.