

ILVO's Own Capital is looking for a

Microalgae Researcher

Vacancy number

EV_2026_003_D1

Place of employment

Jacobsenstraat 1 - 8400 Oostende

Do you have experience in microalgae research and are you eager to apply this knowledge in a sustainable way for valorisation in the medical field or in sustainable food systems? Are you looking for a role with scientific responsibility and societal impact? Do you enjoy hands-on laboratory work combined with project-based research? Are you motivated to collaborate with strong academic and industrial partners, also at an international level?

Job description

Within ILVO Marien, we are looking for an experienced researcher who will help lay the foundations for new research activities on microalgae. You will work on project-based, applied research within the field of health (bioactive compounds from microalgae against fatty liver disease), with a strong focus on valorisation and innovative applications. You combine laboratory work on cultivation and processing with (metabolomics) analyses. Your work includes scientific reporting and close collaboration with external partners such as universities and companies. In this role, you contribute to the development of new projects, share your expertise within national and international networks, and represent ILVO at project meetings and scientific conferences in Belgium and abroad.

What will your job look like?

- Carrying out and supervising laboratory research and cultivation of a broad range of microalgae (including extremophiles) for applications in the health sector (e.g. nutraceuticals for the treatment of fatty liver disease).
- Extraction of bioactive compounds from microalgae using various methods.
- Characterisation of bioactive fractions from microalgae (with end goals in medical, veterinary and other applications).
- Contributing to the development and evaluation of the valorisation component of this microalgae research project, mainly in relation to therapies against fatty liver disease and the evaluation of potential applications for other human and veterinary diseases.
- Supervising a laboratory technician through a well-designed experimental plan.
- Taking responsibility for scientific reporting (e.g. project reports, scientific papers, patents).
- Coordinating and collaborating with external partners (including VUB and the University of Antwerp) for planning, knowledge exchange and scientific content development (liver cell lines, mouse models, liver targeting).
- Maintaining contacts with industry and contributing to the valorisation of research results.
- Participating in (international) project meetings and scientific conferences.

This position requires a strong affinity with marine research. Experience in cultivation, processing and/or valorisation of microalgae supports a smooth start in the role.

Our organization

Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) is a **multidisciplinary research institute** of the Flemish government, with a focus on supporting **sustainable agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and food research**.

Drawing on the 5 important ILVO values - *Positivity, Proactivity, Professionalism, Working Together and Being an Example*, we are steadily growing ILVO as a **socially relevant center of expertise**. We work together within a culture of open, honest discussion and mutual trust.

And ... now you might be able to play a role in this wonderful story!

We employ more than 750 people, about half of whom are researchers. More than 70% of the personnel is employed by ILVO based on project and contract research, the others are civil servants for the Flemish Government.

Your Profile

Conditions

- ✓ You hold a Master's degree with at least 5 years of relevant experience, or you have (recently) obtained a PhD in a field related to the topic of this position. If you have a foreign diploma we ask you, upon employment, to obtain equivalence recognition. You can apply for this at [NARIC Vlaanderen](#)
- ✓ You have a solid knowledge of laboratory techniques.
- ✓ You have experience with scientific reporting (e.g. patents, scientific papers).
- ✓ You have experience in the valorisation of research.
- ✓ You have experience in preparing and submitting scientific project proposals.
- ✓ You have a professional command of English, both written and spoken.

Personal competences

- ✓ Accurate and critical: you safeguard the quality of experiments and analyse results with scientific depth.
- ✓ Strong organisational skills: you maintain an overview of research planning, experiments and reporting.
- ✓ Strong communication skills: you present research results clearly to external stakeholders and at conferences.
- ✓ Socially skilled: you negotiate with companies and can convince others of the added value of research.

Our offering

We offer you a open-ended contract with a competitive salary based on your degree. You will be recruited in the salary scale A165 . You can make a calculation of your monthly salary, a holiday bonus and your end-of-year allowance via de [Salarissimulator](#) (note, under salary system select "volgens anciënniteit - according to seniority"). Relevant experience can be considered for financial seniority.

You get a **varied, challenging and socially relevant** job in a dynamic environment with attractive working conditions and development opportunities. **Hybrid work** is possible if the position allows it.

Additional: Hospitalization and group (life) insurance, commuting allowance (bicycle – public transport), meal vouchers (8 €/day) and option to **lease a bicycle**. A total of **35 paid vacation days** based on last year's performance (private scheme). ILVO is closed between Christmas and New Year. That means you have those days off.

Start: 15/03/2026

How to apply?

You can apply online via "[Jobs - ILVO Vlaanderen](#)" and this at the latest until **25/02/2026**. If you cannot apply online, you can request the application form via personeel@ilvo.vlaanderen.be.

Candidates found fit (based on CV screening) will be invited for a selection interview on **9/03/2026** (date subject to change). Please include a telephone number and e-mail address where you can be reached during the day.

ILVO wants to reflect the society it serves as best as possible. You are selected on the basis of your qualities and skills, regardless of your gender, origin, age or disability. If you have a disability, please let us know in advance. ILVO provides reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities during the selection procedure. Do you need certain adjustments to be able to take part in a selection? If so, get in touch with the contact person mentioned in the vacancy as early as possible in the procedure.

For more info please contact

Job content:

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Selection procedure:

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