



NEWSLETTER 2019

#3 - March

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Biophysics Week 2019

La SIBPA aderisce con entusiasmo all'iniziativa promossa dalla *Biophysical Society* che istituisce dal 25 al 29 Marzo 2019 la *Biophysics Week*:



25-29 Marzo, 2019

http://www.biophysics.cnr.it/index.php/it/

∨ Biophysics Week



Biophysics Week is an annual event started in 2016 to celebrate and raise awareness of the field.

Partner Societies







https://www.biophysics.org/biophysics-week#/



[CfPo] Post-doc Position at CNR-IBF, Genova



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Post-doc position at the CNR Biophysics Institute - Genova - Italy

Electrophysiological and cell physiological investigation of the role of volume regulated anion channels in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma

The research will be conducted within the PRIN project "LIONESS - Leveraging basic knowledge of ion channel network in cancer for innovative therapeutic strategies".

The candidate should have a solid background in cellular electrophysiology (patch clamp) and experience in cellular physiology and molecular biology.

The position will be covered by an "assegno di ricerca" for three years.

Interested potential candidates are invited to contact Dr. Michel Pusch (pusch@ge.ibf.cnr.it) for further info and details.

[CfPo] PhD Candidate on Encapsulation of photoactivable Orange Carotenoid Protein in SiO2 matrices - Sorbonne Université Paris

Our research group at is actively seeking a PhD candidate for a research project on encapsulation of a photoactivable protein, Orange Carotenoid Protein, in silica mesoporous matrices, under the supervision of Dr Alberto Mezzetti. The project is at the interface between molecular biophysics and material science, and it will be developed at the Surface Reactivity laboratory ("Laboratoire de Réactivité de Surface" LRS UMR 7197, Mixed unit with French CNRS) of Sorbonne University, Paris, located in the center of the town. The project will be developed in close collaboration with Prof.





Jean-François Lambert (LRS, Sorbonne University) and Dr Diana Kirilovsky, Institute of Integrative Biology, University Paris-Saclay, France.

Salary is around 1400 euros net /month, which can be complemented (~150 euros/month) with some teaching to be delivered in French. Some funding for lodging (depending on the rent) is also provided by the French State. Starting date is October 1st, 2019. The candidate should be in possess of a M.Sc or equivalent for that date.

Candidature should arrive to <u>alberto.mezzetti@upmc.fr</u> as soon as possible, and in any case no later than April 3th, 2019. After a first selection and an informal interview (e.g. by skype), the pre-selected candidate will have to undertake a formal interview by the board of teachers of the doctoral school in physical chemistry of materials at Sorbonne University on May 16 or 17 , 2019. Interviews normally take place in Paris, but some exceptions may be considered for candidates applying from outside western Europe or in special cases.

The ideal candidate is highly motivated physical chemist with strong interest in molecular biophysics, and some experience on interactions between protein or peptides and inorganic surfaces.

Knowledge of vibrational spectroscopy and/or nano/mesoporous materials is a plus

Knowledge of English is mandatory. Knowledge of French is not necessary but it is a plus.

NB: Only candidates with a background in chemistry, physics, material science or related disciplines will be considered.

The name of two references (one of which should be the Master's thesis supervisor) are required.

LRS lab has a long-standing tradition in studying biomolecules at solid surfaces. Sorbonne University is n. 36 in the world according to the Shangai ranking 2018.

Please, spread the info as much as possible.

Best regards
Dr Alberto Mezzetti
Senior Lecturer in Physical Chemistry
Laboratory of Surface Reactivity UMR 7197
Sorbonne University
Paris, France
alberto.mezzetti@upmc.fr

[CfPo] [Ebsa] Postdoctoral Postdoctoral Fellowship in Structural Biology, University of Oxford

Applications are invited for a Postdoctoral Research position in structural biology to join <u>Professor Simon Newstead's</u> group located in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Oxford.

We currently have an opening for a highly-motivated Postdoctoral Research Associate in structural biology to join an ambitious project to understand transporter dynamics within the POT family of proton coupled peptide transporters. The project is currently running and we have developed several technology platforms, including lipid cubic phase crystallisation, liposome-based transport assays and single particle cryo-EM imaging, for the successful applicant to develop as part of this post. Specifically, the project seeks to understand the role of lipids in modulating transporter dynamics.

We are particularly interested in recruiting structural biologists with experience in either protein biochemistry, X-ray protein crystallography and/or single particle cryo-EM of integral membrane



proteins. Research in the Newstead group is focused on the structural biology and biochemistry of membrane proteins involved in drug and nutrient transport in pathogenic microorganisms and mammalian cells (recent publications include, Minhas & Newstead PNAS 2019, Parker et al PNAS 2018, Parker & Newstead Nature 2017, Stockbridge et al Nature 2016).

The project is part of a larger 4-year BBSRC funded project in collaboration with <u>Professor Anthony Watts</u> to combine structural and biochemical analysis of peptide transport with advanced NMR methods. You will work closely with the Postdoctoral research associate in NMR spectroscopy currently in post and be responsible for the management of the project in the Newstead group and communicating with the other project partners. You will test hypotheses and analyse scientific data from a variety of sources and act as a source of information and advice for other members of the group on scientific protocols and experimental techniques. You will also be expected to contribute to the general smooth running of the laboratory and to help with training and teaching of graduate students.

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the 'Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford' document, at www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

If you would like to apply, click on the **Apply Now** button on the 'Job Details' page and follow the onscreen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

Please upload all documents **as PDF files** with your name and the document type in the filename. All applications must be received by **midday** on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

[CfPo] [Ebsa] Post doc positions on Building a Synthetic Cell and Biophysics of Membrane transport

Post doc positions on Building a Synthetic Cell and Biophysics of Membrane transport

Organization

The University of Groningen provides an excellent environment for top-notch research in the field of biomolecular sciences. In the framework of a national program on the construction of a synthetic cell two Post doc positions are available in the Membrane Enzymology group of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

The building of a synthetic cell is a great scientific and intellectual challenge for biophysicists, biochemists, and biologists. We aim to take on this challenge in the context of a EU CoFund program with several groups in the Netherlands collaborating in this area. We will combine biomolecular building blocks to create an autonomous self-reproducing cell - a synthetic cell that can sustain itself, grow, replicate and divide. We also aim to characterize membrane transporters at the single-





molecule and single-liposome level. More general questions on the topic can be found under **Background of EU CoFund program.**

Apply

Salary will be commensurate with experience and is in addition to a generous fringe benefit package. To apply for one of the positions, please email a CV including a brief description of your research interests and accomplishments, and include two letters of recommendation from former advisors/professors. Correspondence to be addressed to Prof. Bert Poolman (b.poolman@rug.nl). You can apply for a position until April 15th, 2019

For information about the research group: https://www.rug.nl/research/membrane-enzymology/

Background of EU CoFund program

Life: its defining properties, from the molecular to the biosphere level

While lipids, proteins and nucleic acids are regarded as nonliving, their assembly results in hierarchically ordered structures (such as bacteria or eukaryotic cells), which are clearly alive. How does nature tackle the grand complex challenge to order the many copies of all the different lipids, proteins and nucleic acid molecules into a functional, active and living structure? How is it assured that all the different cells in organs and organisms are at the right place after a complex cell division and differentiation process? Complexity also plays an important role on larger length scales, where organisms interact with each other, and where finally the set of ecosystems make up our constantly evolving biosphere. What is the basis of this, what are the sources and mechanisms of variability and diversity? Here we will address such questions by studying existing systems at all possible details using advanced biochemical and biophysical approaches, but also by creating new systems such as artificial (sub)cellular structures. Constructing an artificial cell will be a major milestone. This can be attempted by the bottom-up construction of compartments with life-like features, by gathering all needed components and trying to assemble them in the right order, using either naturally existing biomolecules, or components synthesised *ab initio*.

Bert Poolman

Department of Biochemistry, Groningen Biomolecular Sciences and Biotechnology Institute & Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials

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http://www.membraneenzymology.com; http://www.rug.nl/fmns-research/enzymology/index

[CfPo] PhD position in biomolecular solid-state NMR - Groningen, Netherlands

PhD position in Structural biology of Huntington's disease (solid-state NMR), University of Groningen, Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials (NL) Van der Wel Solid-state NMR Group

We are looking to fill a PhD position for an exciting new project in our lab at the University of Groningen. This project is funded by a grant from the Netherlands' Campagneteam Huntington – a community-driven effort to fund Huntington's disease (HD) research in the Netherlands.



The researcher will use solid-state NMR and electron microscopy for molecular studies of the misfolded protein species behind the neurodegenerative disease HD. Tailor-made solid-state NMR experiments will be used to provide an atomic view of the protein aggregates. For an integrated structure/toxic-function analysis, the project will include toxicity assays in human neuronal cells and aggregation modulation studies. The PhD researcher will perform the cellular assays with the group of Prof. Amalia Dolga, our close collaborator in the Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy. The interdisciplinary studies are designed to yield a new understanding of this devastating disease, with likely implications for other neurodegenerative disorders associated with protein aggregation. Recent HD research papers from the lab:

- Hoop et al. (2016) Huntingtin exon 1 fibrils feature an interdigitated β -hairpin—based polyglutamine core. *PNAS* 113(6):1546–51.
- Lin et al. (2017) Fibril polymorphism affects immobilized non-amyloid flanking domains of huntingtin exon1 rather than its polyglutamine core. *Nat Commun.* 8:15462.
- Smith et al. (2018) Structural fingerprinting of protein aggregates by dynamic nuclear polarization-enhanced solid-state NMR at natural isotopic abundance. *J Am Chem Soc* 140(44): 14576-14580.

The candidate is expected to have a Master's degree (or potentially a BSc degree with demonstrable research experience*) in bio- or physical chemistry, (bio)physics or another field of science relevant for the position. Experience with NMR, and especially solid-state NMR, is an important consideration, but may not be essential (depending on the background of the candidate). Applicants with a background and interest in protein biophysics or protein aggregation are encouraged to apply.

To apply: please contact Dr Van der Wel at p.c.a.van.der.wel@rug.nl, with a CV and cover letter in which you explain your interest in the project. Applications are considered on an ongoing basis. For full consideration please apply soon; no later than April 5th.

Additional background information about the lab is also available on our website https://www.vanderwellab.org/

[CfPo] [Ebsa] Research Position in molecular simulation of fusion peptides

Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Inst. de Tecnologia Química e Biológica António Xavier (ITQB NOVA)

By order of the Rector of *Universidade Nova de Lisboa*, issued on February 7th 2019, and in accordance with the Decree-Law nº 57/2016 of 29 August, with the amendment introduced by Law 57/2017 of 19 July, ITQB NOVA opens a call for a PhD Researcher, in the scope of a project financed by FCT, entitled "Using computational and experimental methods to provide a global characterization of viral fusion peptides", reference **PTDC/CCI-BIO/28200/2017**.

Academic Qualifications: PhD in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Computational Biology or related areas.

General admission requirements:

- 1) PhD in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Computational Biology or related areas;
- 2) Strong motivation to conduct scientific research;
- 3) Ability to work autonomously;



- 4) Good organizational, communication and team work skills;
- 3) Proficiency in English, written and spoken.

Specific admission requirements:

- 1) Research experience in the field of molecular simulation, demonstrated in scientific publications;
- 2) Experience in Unix based systems.

Work Plan: The selected candidate will apply molecular simulation methodologies to the study of fusion peptides from different viruses and their interaction with model membranes.

Category and applicable legislation: PhD Researcher, salary index to the Single Salary Table (TRU) level 33, approved by *Decreto-Regulamentar* nº 11-A/2017, 29 November.

It is foreseen that the contract starts in May 2019. Employment contract for an uncertain term (according to the article 18, paragraph b), and paragraph 1 and 3 of article 6, DL No. 57/2016, of August 29, amended by Law No. 57/2017, of July 19, with an initial period of 6 months, eventually renewable up to a maximum of 30 months.

Documents required in the application:

Detailed *Curriculum vitae*; Motivation Letter; Two reference letters; PhD certificate.

Selection criteria:

Evaluation of application ($Curriculum\ vitae$ and motivation letter considering the evaluation criteria from Minute number 1) - 90%

Interview - 10%

Jury:

- Doctor Diana Lousa, ITQB NOVA;
- Professor Doctor Cláudio Soares, presidente, ITQB NOVA;
- Doctor Isabel Rocha, efective member, ITQB NOVA;
- Doctor Manuel Melo, substitute member, ITQB NOVA.

Submission and deadlines of applications: The application call starts on March 15th and ends on April 12th, 2019

All documents **must** be sent as a <u>single PDF</u> file by email to <u>concursos@itqb.unl.pt</u> indicating the reference **28200-06-2019-FCT** in the subject.

Notification of Results: All candidates will be informed of the decisions by e-mail.

[CfPo] [Ebsa] Research position in Biomolecular NMR



By order of the Rector of Universidade Nova de Lisboa, issued on February 7th 2019, and in accordance with the Decree-Law nº 57/2016 of 29 August, with the amendment introduced by Law 57/2017 of 19 July, ITQB NOVA opens a call for a PhD Researcher, in the scope of a project financed by FCT, entitled "Determination of the molecular mechanisms of cytochrome c biogenesis", reference PTDC/BIA-BQM/30176/2017.

Academic Qualifications: PhD in Biochemistry, Chemistry or related areas.

General admission requirements:

- 1) PhD in Biochemistry, Chemistry or related areas;
- 2) Proficiency in English, written and spoken.

Specific admission requirements:

- 1) Proven experience in the determination of protein structure by NMR spectroscopy;
- 2) Experience in recombinant protein expression and purification;
- 3) Experience in the study of biomolecular interactions by NMR methods;
- 4) Preference will be given to candidates with proven experience in the characterization of IDPs by NMR methods

Category and applicable legislation: PhD Researcher, salary index to the Single Salary Table (TRU) level 33, approved by Decreto-Regulamentar nº 11-A/2017, 29 November.

It is foreseen that the contract starts in May 2019. Employment contract for an uncertain term (according to the article 18, paragraph b), and paragraph 1 and 3 of article 6, DL No. 57/2016, of August 29, amended by Law No. 57/2017, of July 19, with an initial period of 6 months, eventually renewable up to a maximum of 33 months.

Documents required in the application:

Detailed Curriculum vitae written in English with indication of the three most notable scientific papers as first author and rational for the choice;

Motivation Letter and career plans in English;

E-mail contacts of two references;

PhD certificate.

Selection criteria:

- Evaluation of application (Curriculum vitae motivation letter and career plan, considering the evaluation criteria from Minute number 1) 90%
- -Interview 10%

Jury:

- Doctor Ricardo O. Louro, ITQB-NOVA;
- Doctor Catarina M. Paquete, ITQB-NOVA;
- Doctor Pedro Lamosa, ITQB-NOVA;
- Doctor Bruno Fonseca, ITQB-NOVA;





Submission and deadlines of applications: The application call starts on March 18th and ends on April 5th, 2019.

All documents must be sent as a single PDF file by email to concursos@itqb.unl.pt indicating the reference 30176-01-2019-FCT in the subject.

Notification of Results: All candidates will be informed of the decisions by e-mail.

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Richard O louro
Assistant Researcher with Habilitation
Coordinator of the Center for Magnetic Resonance António Xavier
Leader of the Inorganic Biochemistry and NMR laboratory
Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica António Xavier
Universidade Nova de Lisboa

[CfPo] [Ebsa] PhD position, Blackledge group IBS Grenoble

PhD position in Blackledge group at IBS Grenoble NMR studies of intrinsically disordered proteins and their role in stress response

In spite of the ubiquitous nature of intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs), the molecular mechanisms regulating their function remain poorly understood. In our group we use NMR spectroscopy to describe the conformational dynamics of IDPs as a function of their environment and to map their molecular interaction trajectories.

The successful candidate will investigate the physical role of IDPs that confer remarkable protective properties to diverse organisms in response to external stress such as temperature, dessication, extreme pressure or radiation. The project lies at the interface of biology, chemistry and physics and will combine NMR spectroscopy with fluorescence, small angle scattering and MD simulation. We are looking for candidates interested in applying physico-chemical approaches to resolve fascinating biological problems.

Interested candidates should send a cv, motivation letter and the names of two referees to martin.blackledge@ibs.fr or just contact me for more details.

Grenoble: Capital of the French Alps, Grenoble is an international scientific centre, with a strong international flavor. It is a pleasant city, situated at the foot of three mountain ranges offering many possibilities for cultural, outdoor and sporting activities throughout the year. Grenoble is close to the French riviera, Italy and Switzerland and is served by international and national airports. http://www.ibs.fr/jobs/about-grenoble/

Facilities: The IBS is situated on the European Photon and Neutron (<u>EPN</u>) campus together with its European partners, the <u>EMBL</u> (European Molecular Biology Laboratory), the <u>ESRF</u> (European Synchrotron Radiation Facility), and the <u>ILL</u> (Institute Laue-Langevin). This unique site provides access to state of the art equipment to analyze biological systems at different scales of resolution.

The IBS provides an international working environment with state-of-the-art NMR facilities, including 950, 850, 700 and 600MHz NMR spectrometers with both liquid-state cryoprobes and state-of-the-





art solid state technology, and wet-lab facilities for cloning, expression and purification of proteins. Access is facilitated to a number of state-of-the-art biophysical platforms through the Integrated Structural Biology Grenoble (ISBG) (https://www.isbg.fr/spip.php?lang=en).

Blackledge research group: http://www.ibs.fr/groups/protein-dynamics-and-flexibility/?lang=en Relevant recent publications:

An ultraweak interaction in the intrinsically disordered replication machinery is essential for measles virus function. Milles, Jensen, Lazert, Guseva, Ivashchenko, Communie, Maurin, Gerlier, Ruigrok, Blackledge *Science Advances*, 4, eaat7778 (2018)

Analytical Description of NMR Relaxation Highlights Correlated Dynamics in Intrinsically Disordered Proteins. Salvi, Abyzov, Blackledge. *Angew Chem Int Ed Engl.* 5614020-14024 (2017)

Identification of Dynamic Modes in an Intrinsically Disordered Protein Using Temperature-Dependent NMR Relaxation. Abyzov, Salvi, Schneider, Maurin, Ruigrok, Jensen, Blackledge *J Am Chem Soc* 138, 6240 (2016)

Visualizing the molecular recognition trajectory of an intrinsically disordered protein using multinuclear relaxation dispersion NMR. Schneider, Maurin, Communie, Kragelj, Hansen, Ruigrok, Jensen, Blackledge *J Am Chem Soc* 137, 1220 (2015)

Plasticity of an Ultrafast Interaction between Nucleoporins and Nuclear Transport Receptors. Milles, Mercadante, Aramburu, Jensen, Banterle, Koehler, Tyagi, Clarke, Shammas, Blackledge*, Gräter*, Lemke* *Cell*. 163, 734 (2015)

Direct observation of hierarchical protein dynamics. Lewandowski, Halse, Blackledge*, Emsley* *Science* 348, 578 (2015)

Large Scale Conformational Dynamics Control H5N1 Influenza Polymerase PB2 Binding to Importin α . Delaforge, Milles, Bouvignies, Bouvier, Boivin, Salvi, Maurin, Martel, Round, Lemke, Jensen, Hart, Blackledge *J Am Chem Soc* 137,15122 (2015)

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Martin Blackledge

Group Leader

Research Director CEA, Protein Dynamics and Flexibility by NMR

Director Adjoint/Deputy Director, Institut de Biologie Structurale, CAMPUS EPN, 71 avenue des Martyrs, CS10090, 38044 Grenoble Cedex 9; France

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http://www.ibs.fr/groups/protein-dynamics-and-flexibility/?lang=en

Telephone: +33 457 428 554

[CS] [Ebsa] [Ebsa] 2019 Summer School in Computational Biology - from molecules to tissues

The Computational Biology network at the University of Coimbra (http://www.uc.pt/en/iii/initiatives/cbuc) is pleased to announce the 2019 Summer School in Computational Biology - from molecules to tissues, to be held in Coimbra (Portugal) on the 2th to 12th September 2019. This will be an intensive introductory course targeted to students from the M. Sc. to post-doctoral levels with either biological or exact sciences backgrounds who wish to acquire skills and a broad perspective in Computational Biology. It will include introductory lectures, courses on specialized Computational Biology topics, seminars on recent developments, and mini-research





projects. There will be two parallel tracks of introductory lectures: A. Mathematics and physics for students with a life sciences background; B. Biology for students with an exact sciences background. Students who so wish will be welcome to present their work in a poster session. In order to apply, please send a CV to computational.biology@uc.pt

no later than **May 15**, indicating also which introductory track you intend to follow. The registration fee for the selected candidates is 60€, to be paid after acceptance (announced by May 20) and no later than June 30. Accommodation at discounted rates will be available. For further information please see http://www.uc.pt/en/iii/initiatives/cbuc/CBSS5

Under the terms of the RU 2016/679 27/04/2016 and Law nº 67/98 26/10 the personal data collected by the entity is for recruitment purposes only. Personal data collected by the entity by means of this application are intended to assess whether candidates are suitable for the place requested. The data entered in the application are essential data in the weighting of the selection of candidates, which may affect the efficiency and the result of the respective application if the candidates do not provide them. Personal data of unsuitable candidates will be retained by the entity for a period of four years for subsequent recruitment. Candidates shall enjoy, in accordance with the law, the rights of access and rectification. For the exercise of the right of access, they must submit the request in writing to the person in charge of the entity.

Armindo Salvador, PhD COMPUTATIONAL & SYSTEMS BIOLOGY salvador@cnc.uc.pt



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[CS] [Ebsa] Deadline approaching: FEBS ALC on Biological Surfaces and Interfaces - Costa Brava , July 2019

The deadlines for FEBS advanced lecture course on Biological Surfaces and interfaces is approaching: we are receiving applications until <u>April 1st!</u>
Biological Surfaces and Interfaces: the Mechanistic View
June 30, 2019 – July 5, 2019
Sant Feliu de Guixols, Catalonia, Spain



Applications can be submitted via the following course webpage which provides all information about the meeting: https://biointerfaces2019.febsevents.org/.

Application deadline: April 1st, please follow the instructions detailed here: https://biointerfaces2019.febsevents.org/attending-the-course.

The conference will bring together leading researchers from diverse disciplines (physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, clinical disciplines) studying interfaces between biological systems and artificial materials, and within biological systems (such as cell membranes and their model, cell-extracellular matrix and cell-cell contacts, etc) at Hotel Eden Roc in Sant Feliu de Guixols, in Catalonia, Spain. Historically, this conference has had a particularly strong focus on promoting interactions between the attendees, with plenty of time set aside for discussion – after the lectures, at the coffee breaks and during the poster sessions. We have an excellent line up of speakers, further information can be found on the attached flyer and under https://biointerfaces2019.febsevents.org/.

We look forward to seeing you in Sant Feliu de Guixols in the summer of 2019. Marta Bally

Chair – FEBS advanced course on Biological Surfaces and Interfaces
Associate senior lecturer, Umeå University, Wallenberg Centre for Molecular Medicine, Department of Clinical Microbiology, 90185 Umeå, Sweden.

[MC] [Ebsa] Brexit & Science: Consequences for Research Funding and Immigration Flows

The President of the European Biophysical Societies' Association, Anthony Watts, PhD, University of Oxford, talked to Biophysical Society TV on March 3, 2019 about the very latest developments of Brexit just weeks before the March 29 deadline for the United Kingdom (UK) to formally leave the European Union (EU). We asked Prof. Watts about how Brexit & the uncertainty over the finalized terms is impacting university applications, recruitment, and research funding.

Please see the full discussion from:

https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A2=BBS;ce2f859f.1903p

The BBS Committee



[closed at 25/03/2019]