We offer 1 PhD Position (36 months) in the field of Microalgal Synthetic Biology within the ERA-CoBioTech project MERIT (MicroalgaE as Renewable Innovative green cell factories). The project start is scheduled for 06/2018. MERIT is an international research initiative comprising groups from four different countries and an industrial partner. Within the project a novel synthetic biology platform for the two microalgae *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* and *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* will be established. This platform will be used to sustainably synthesize various diterpenoids from carbon dioxide with an improved partitioning of fixed carbon into desired products. Strains created in the PhD project and producing diterpenoids efficiently under photoautotrophic conditions will be subjected to large-scale cultivation experiments with subsequent downstream processing and product purification at the facilities of MERIT partners.

Your qualifications:
- Master’s degree in Biology, Molecular Biology or Biochemistry
- Strong background in molecular biology (cloning; gene knock-down/out techniques; mRNA/protein quantification) and metabolite analysis (GC-MS; HPLC) is desirable
- Good command of the English language and high level of motivation

Your benefits:
- The excellent infrastructure of the Center for Biotechnology at Bielefeld University with a superb working environment in which you have great opportunities to develop your ideas and accomplish your scientific goals in an international research group.
- The participation in workshops and conferences.

Bielefeld University is committed to support equal opportunity; we encourage applications from qualified women and persons with disabilities.

Your application:
Please send CV (including transcripts & certificates), personal statement of research background & motivation and the name and contact details of two referees as one pdf document per email to: Prof. Dr. Olaf Kruse, Bielefeld University; Dep. of Biology/CeBiTec; Chair of Algae Biotechnology & Bioenergy; olaf.kruse@uni-bielefeld.de. Application deadline is 30.04.2018.