**Electronic Supporting Information** 

## Title: Hydrophobic Core Formation and Secondary Structure Elements in Uranyl(VI)–Binding Peptides



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**Fig. S1** FTIR-ATR spectra of c[DSDSSDS] in the presence of  $UO_2^{2+}$  with different amount of NaOH.



**Fig. S2** FTIR-ATR spectra of c[DSDSSDS] in the absence of  $UO_2^{2+}$  with different amount of NaOH.



**Fig. S3** Structures of  $UO_2^{2+}$ -bound CaM-M2c (a,b,c) and CaM-M3c (d,e,f) from the MD trajectories. Waters and Na<sup>+</sup> ions are omitted for clarity. (a,d): Global view on the peptide along the O=U=O axis from the MD snapshot at t = 200 ns. Peptide in dark ribbon, uranium in pink ball, oxygens in the vicinity of uranium in red balls. (b,e): Superpositions of 100 snapshots from 200 ns MD trajectory (each 2 ns). Peptide in gray ribbon and  $UO_2^{2+}$  in pink and red. (c,f): Global view on the peptide at t = 200 ns. Peptide in dark ribbon, hydrophobic sidechains in red, polar sidechains in blue spheres.



**Fig. S4** Analysis of secondary structure elements of the  $UO_2^{2+}$ -bound CaM-M1c (top, left), CaM-M2c (top, right), CaM-M3c (bottom, left), and CaM-U2 (bottom, right) from the MD trajectories based on DSSP (hydrogen bond analysis algorithm).



**Fig. S5** Time evolution of RMSD of backbone atoms from 200 ns trajectories of MD simulations of CaM-M1c, CaM-M2c, CaM-M3c, and CaM-U2 with  $UO_2^{2+}$ .