

## **Public job advertisement**

45,000 students and 8,000 employees in teaching, research and administration, all working together to shape perspectives for the future – that is the University of Münster (WWU). Embedded in the vibrant atmosphere of Münster with its high standard of living, the University's diverse research profile and attractive study programmes draw students and researchers throughout Germany and from around the world.

The Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity at the University of Münster, Germany, is seeking to fill the position of a

### **Doctoral Student (Ph.D position)** *Wissenschaftliche\*r Mitarbeiter\*in* **(salary level TV-L E 13)**

for the externally funded project SFB/TRR 212 at the earliest possible date. We are offering a fixed-term position (65%) for 3 years.

#### **Your tasks:**

The position is part of the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB/TRR 212) entitled: A Novel Synthesis of Individualisation across Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution: Niche Choice, Niche Conformance, Niche Construction (NC<sup>3</sup>), as granted by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

This PhD project deals with the ecological and evolutionary effects of parasite virulence. In this project, you will investigate the niche construction effects of a trophically transmitted tapeworm parasite (*Schistocephalus solidus*) on individual three-spined stickleback fish. The project aims to show how these effects cascade from the individual to the ecosystem level and alter eco-evolutionary dynamics. The successful candidate will be involved in mesocosm experiments to investigate how parasite virulence affects individual trophic specialisation of the hosts. We also aim to identify the physiological and metabolic traits associated with these individual differences. The successful candidate will further take advantage of transcriptomic datasets to identify the immuno-physiological traits associated with host niche individualisation, and contribute to the development of computational models that will bridge the gap between individual, population, and community processes.

#### **Our expectations:**

Applicants should be highly motivated scientists of any nationality, who are interested in interdisciplinary work. They should have the equivalent of a master degree in biology, preferentially with a focus on evolution and ecology, or related fields. A background, and ideally some experience, in any of the following areas will be useful: fish handling and care, limnology, molecular skills, individual-based models, as well as a good understanding of statistics. Applicants should have excellent communication skills and be able to work both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team. The working language of the Institute and the lab is English, and good proficiency in spoken and written English is a requirement.

#### **Advantages for you:**

The University of Münster is a large vibrant university hosting a number of excellent scientific institutions (<http://www.uni-muenster.de/en/>). The Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity provides a stimulating research environment with a number of scientific groups researching diverse topics centred on different aspects of evolution. The successful candidate will join the team of Professor Joachim Kurtz, focussing on host-parasite coevolution and ecological immunology. As a part of the Collaborative Research Centre SFB/TRR 212 ([https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/verbuende/sfb\\_nc3/](https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/verbuende/sfb_nc3/)), the project will involve intensive collaboration with consortium partners at the Universities of Münster and Bielefeld. The town of Münster itself has many students and presents a dynamic environment with many cultural and social events throughout the year (<http://www.muenster.de/en/>).

The University of Münster is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the proportion of women academics. Consequently, we actively encourage applications by women. Female candidates with equivalent qualifications and academic achievements will be preferentially considered within the framework of the legal possibilities.

The University of Münster is committed to employing more staff with disabilities. Candidates with recognised severe disabilities who have equivalent qualifications are given preference in hiring decisions.

Are you interested?

Then we look forward to receiving your application, written in English, in one single pdf file by 15 December 2021 at Dr. Jaime Anaya-Rojas ([jaime.anaya-rojas@uni-muenster.de](mailto:jaime.anaya-rojas@uni-muenster.de)). Please note that we cannot consider other file formats. Applications should include 1) a cover letter with a statement of research interests and motivation (max. 1 page), 2) a CV including details about university degrees, research experience and publications, and 3) contact details of at least two referees.