

The logo for the University of Neuchâtel (unine) features the word "unine" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a small blue dot above the final 'e'.

Université de Neuchâtel



PHD STUDENT POSITION IN PATHOGEN GENOMICS, EVOLUTION AND/OR TRANSPOSABLE ELEMENT DYNAMICS

The Laboratory of Evolutionary Genetics located at the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) invites applications for a fully funded PhD position with Prof. Daniel Croll.

The project will be focused on a major fungal wheat pathogen (*Zymoseptoria tritici*) with very extensive population genomics, transcriptomics and trait datasets from thousands of strains across the globe. Key topics for the PhD research can include (1) **understanding rapid adaptation** to host plants, climate and agrochemicals; (2) tracking **the expansion dynamics of selfish (transposable) elements** in the genome and how these impact the integrity of the genome, (3) understanding **microbiome dynamics** as the pathogen interacts with bacteria and the host. The PhD project can be defined depending on the interests and strengths of the selected candidate.

Required qualifications: MSc degree in biology or related fields, strong interest in evolutionary genetics and genome evolution, experience in data analyses and/or programming. Motivation and enthusiasm for research are key. Prior experience in population genomics analyses, molecular laboratory work, statistical analysis are a bonus depending on the precise orientation of the PhD project.

We offer a very welcoming and collaborative research environment with many opportunities for open discussions. Collaborations with researchers of diverse backgrounds internationally are also possible. The University of Neuchâtel is centrally located in Switzerland with a wealth of cultural activities, a beautiful lakefront and views of the Swiss Alps.

Application: until 10 August 2022 (or filled). Review of applications starts immediately.

Starting date/duration: 1 November 2022 (or upon agreement). The initial duration of the PhD position is four years with the possibility for an extension.

Please send your application as a single PDF to daniel.croll@unine.ch including: a motivation letter (max 1 page), a CV, transcript records and contact details of 2-3 references (e.g. MSc supervisor, no letter is required at this stage).

For more information about us visit our group website <https://pathogen-genomics.org>.