

PhD position in Evolutionary Genetics available starting Autumn 2021!

We seek an enthusiastic student interested in pursuing a PhD in the EvoGen lab (principal investigator, Dr. Toni Gossmann) at Bielefeld University (<https://tgossmann.github.io/>). Our lab focuses on approaches and data analysis to identify imprints of selection in natural populations, making use of newly available biodiversity data produced through next generation sequencing approaches.

Project

What genomic regions are involved in the processes of species differentiation and hybrid formation? While these are central problems in evolutionary ecology, little is known about the role of epigenetics underlying species differentiation and hybrid formation in animals. The aim of the project is to address this fundamental knowledge gap by investigating the role of DNA Methylation in avian hybrids and across the species spectrum, using the great tit (*Parus major*) species complex as a model. This study will combine computational approaches (e.g. simulations, bioinformatics) as well as novel sequencing approaches and their data analysis+interpretation.

Requirements and position details

The applicant needs to hold a Master or equivalent degree in a relevant discipline at time of start date (a Bachelor degree is not sufficient) with a background and/or interest in the following subjects:

- evolution
- ecological bioinformatics
- next generation sequencing
- biodiversity
- (avian) genomics
- speciation and hybridisation

Anticipated start date for this PhD position is winter semester 2021 (**1.10.2021**), though the exact start date is negotiable. The position is open to National and International students (EU and worldwide) and funded for 3.5 years (TV-L E13, 65%) by the European Union as part of the ERC starting grant "DECAF".

Some exposure to statistics and programming is expected, though mastery of these tools is not required and there will be ample opportunity to continue to build and refine your skills through mentorship and collaboration in our lab. Wet-lab (e.g. DNA extraction from tissues) and/or field work experience is a plus.

How to apply

Interested students are encouraged to send the following materials:

- Cover letter discussing their interest in joining the lab
- CV
- Copies of undergraduate and (if applicable/possible) graduate transcripts

to **Dr. Toni Gossmann** (toni.gossmann@uni-bielefeld.de) preferably as a **single PDF** until **March 25th, 2021** including the position ID **Wiss21521** in the Email subject line.

Full position advertisement: https://uni-bielefeld.hr4you.org/job/view/356/phd-position?page_lang=en

About Bielefeld

With a population of over 330,000 (and constantly on the rise), Bielefeld is one of the 20 largest cities in Germany. Its residents particularly appreciate the high quality of life, the advantages of a strong economic location and the range of educational and scientific facilities. More than one billion euros has been invested by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia into Campus Bielefeld, shared between Bielefeld University and the University of Applied Sciences. This has resulted in one of the most modern facilities for education and research in Germany. Few cities are as green as Bielefeld, thanks to its location amid the Teutoburg Forest, numerous parks as well as green transport corridors, with 762 kilometres of footpaths traversing the city area. For more of a city buzz, visit Siegfried Platz – known affectionately to locals as "Siggi" – in Bielefeld West, as well as Kesselbrink and Boulevard.

