

2017_08_10

The Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity at the University of Münster, Germany, invite applications for a

PhD position: Reproduction in a changing world
Part-time (65%), salary level: TV-L E13

in the research group of Dr. Claudia Fricke (<http://ieb.uni-muenster.de/evolseco>).

The start date will be as soon as possible, the latest January 2018. Salary will be provided for 36 months. The regular full-time weekly working hours are 39 hours and 50 minutes. All posts can, as a rule, also be filled as part-time positions if there are no compelling work-related reasons against doing so.

We study the evolution of sexual traits. Within this project, the interested candidate will study the effects of temperature on male and female reproduction. High temperatures particularly affect male reproductive success, and we want to understand the underlying molecular changes that lead to the temperature sensitivity of male fertility. Using experimental evolution, the aim of this project is to test whether this temperature sensitivity can evolve and males can remain fertile even at elevated temperatures. This will give insight into if adaption to novel temperature environments is possible or if a constraint could limit species persistence through a reduced ability to reproduce. For this research, the successful candidate will work with the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*, which is a widely used model organism. This project will combine behavioural and fitness assays with molecular work and an experimental evolution approach to gain more insight into the ecology of reproduction.

The University of Münster is a vibrant university hosting many excellent scientific institutions (<http://www.uni-muenster.de/en/>). The Institute for Evolution and Biology provides a stimulating research environment with various scientific groups researching diverse topics centred on different aspects of the study of evolution. The student will benefit from the structured PhD program offered by the Münster Graduate School of Evolution (<http://www.uni-muenster.de/Evolution/mgse/>). The town of Münster itself is characterised by its many students and a dynamic environment with many cultural and social events throughout the year (<http://www.muenster.de/en/>).

Qualifications: We are looking for a highly motivated student of any nationality with the equivalent of a master's degree in biology. A background in any of the following subjects will be useful: previous experience with practical *Drosophila* or other insect work, good molecular skills, preferably experience with bioinformatics, and a good understanding of statistics. Applicants should have excellent communication skills. The working language of the Institute and the lab is English, and good proficiency in spoken and written English is a requirement.

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. We also welcome applications from

candidates with severe disabilities. Disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications will be preferentially considered.

Applications should be written in English and the deadline is **30 August 2017**. Please send your application in one single PDF file to Dr. Claudia Fricke (Claudia.Fricke@uni-muenster.de). Included should be 1) a cover letter with a statement of your research interests and motivation (max. 1 page), 2) your CV, including details of your research experience (with the abstract of your master's thesis) and 3) the contact details of at least two referees.