

Student Assistant Funding for Laboratory Support to Alleviate the Double Burden on Female Researchers

The Department of Biology provides annual funding to support female researchers by covering the costs of a student assistant. This measure aims to improve the compatibility of academic careers and family responsibilities. It is available to students working on their bachelor's or master's thesis, as well as to researchers during their PhD or subsequent qualification phases (e.g., habilitation or junior professorship).

Tasks that cannot be performed due to pregnancy or breastfeeding—such as working with toxic or teratogenic chemicals—can be delegated to the student assistant. The program also supports those balancing scientific work with caregiving responsibilities, including childcare (infants, toddlers, or primary school-aged children) or caring for family members in need.

Routine laboratory tasks (e.g., cell culture, plant or animal breeding) can be taken over by the assistant for a period of **up to 3 months at a maximum of 8 hours per week, or up to 5 months at a maximum of 5 hours per week**. Relief from teaching duties (e.g., supervising lab courses) is also possible.

Guidelines for Student Assistant Funding:

1. Eligibility

Eligible applicants are female researchers in the final phase of a degree program (bachelor's or master's thesis), PhD candidates, or postdoctoral researchers in the qualification phase for habilitation who

- a) Are pregnant, or
- b) Are caring for children (infants, toddlers, or primary school-ages), or
- c) Are providing care for family members.

2. Application Process

Please use the designated [online application form](#) to submit your request.

Applications are processed in the order they are received and can be approved as long as **annual funds are available**. The decision on funding approval is made by the **Department of Biology's Gender Equality Committee**.

Please address your application of the Gender Equality Committee, **Prof. Dr. Helene Richter**