

Two PhD positions in Memory Retention, Cognition, and Ecology

Two PhD positions are available in Claudia Bieber and Thomas Ruf's research group at the Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology in Vienna, Austria (<https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/fiwi/>).

These positions are part of a new research project funded by the Austrian science fund FWF. Our research aims are to investigate the impact of hibernation on memory retention and cognition in edible dormice (*Glis glis*).

The PhD candidates will be responsible to hand-raise dormice and to train and test them prior and after hibernation in behavioral tests. Hibernation patterns will be experimentally manipulated and monitored via implanted bio-loggers. Besides the evaluation of these general experiments, one position is planned to focus further on telomeres in the context of hibernation and cognition, the other will focus on modelling procedures (evaluating e.g. automatically recorded RFID data for social network analysis).

Applicants should have an M.S. degree (or equivalent) and a background in behavioral biology, physiology, or ecology. Experience with modelling and programming / or experience in a genetic lab is advantageous. Our lab places a strong emphasis on the use of modern applied statistics. Experience with small mammals is advantageous.

The positions are available from **1 February 2021 to 31 January 2025**, and the salary is based on the guidelines of the FWF (<https://www.fwf.ac.at/fileadmin/files/Dokumente/Personalkostensaeetze/pek-2020-medizinerInnen.pdf>) and the Veterinary University of Vienna.

Formal applications should include the following as a single pdf file: (1) a CV with names and contact information of two referees, and (2) a letter of motivation (2 pages maximum).

The deadline for **applications is 31 December 2020**, the preferred starting date is the 1st of February but a starting date somewhat later is possible. Inquiries and applications should be directed to **Claudia Bieber** (claudia.bieber@vetmeduni.ac.at)

The Research Institute of Wildlife Biology (FIWI) is located in the Vienna Woods, at the periphery of Vienna, though only 30 min from the city center, and is part of the Department of Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna). Both German and English are commonly spoken; German is useful but not required. The planned project is based on the collaboration with the Veterinary and Genetics groups of our department. Our research is supported by administrative, animal care, and IT staff. FIWI has many national and international collaborations, a high rate of third-party funding, and an excellent publication output.