

The University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna is active in teaching and research and provides services in connection with ensuring animal health in Austria. These tasks represent our contribution to maintaining the health of humans and their animal companions as well as to producing healthy food.

To meet our objectives, our Messerli Research Institute, unit of Comparative Cognition, is looking for a

Postdoctoral Researcher in Comparative Cognition

Grade:	PostDoc/B1
Level of employment:	40 hours
Length of employment:	4 years
Deadline for applications:	24.08.2018

At the Unit of Comparative Cognition, Messerli Research Institute, Vienna, Austria, we are seeking a postdoctoral researcher of cognition in animals. We investigate the various processes, the functions, the evolutionary developing and the problem-solving competence of cognitive abilities of dogs, parrots and pigs. We are especially interested in complex cognition, which in humans is accompanied by conscious states, like logical reasoning, innovation, tool use, cooperation, imitation, empathy and perspective taking. These are examined by using specific, well-controlled behavioral tests and state-of-the-art analysis tools (video analysis, machine learning, eye tracking).

The candidate should have sufficient experience with regard to cognitive testing of one of the before-mentioned species in the technical and/or social domain.

The candidate should have a clear research plan for 4 years, including at least 2 studies described in detail (including research question, hypotheses, methods, to be expected results and knowledge gain).

He or she should be keen to collaborate with scientists in other disciplines, especially in neuroscience, psychology, genetics, ethics and veterinary medicine.

As the candidate will participate in teaching (Research Master, modules in Animal Behaviour and Cognition) and supervising graduate students (PhD and Master projects), he or she should have sufficient experience in this regards.

Necessary knowledge and qualifications

1. a PhD (or equivalent) in biology, psychology or veterinary science
2. post-doc experience at a university or other research institution
3. excellent research skills with good publication track record
4. proficiency in English (equivalent to Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency)
5. an excellent understanding of study design and statistics; programming and computational skills are desirable
6. experience in the conception and management of research projects
7. experience of establishing and leading a research group
8. experience in university-level teaching and the ability and willingness to teach, to supervise theses and to foster new scientific talent

9. good collaboration and communication skills

In the application letter the candidate should explicitly refer to these 9 points.

The University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna expects the successful candidate to acquire sufficient German language proficiency (within 3 years) for teaching and participating in University bodies.

The successful candidate will be offered

- a competitive salary (see below);
- an attractive academic environment, opportunities to develop an academic career, a 4-year contract with the possibility for extension
- an attractive and dynamic research location in a city with a high quality of life, in a country with well developed instruments to promote research

Applications should be accompanied by the following documents:

- application letter (including preferred and earliest possible start date) together with a statement of personal motivation
- academic curriculum vitae (including a list of publications, a list of courses and students supervised, a list of talks given)
- short description of current research interests
- a research plan for the next four years (see above)
- copies of relevant certificates
- contact details of people who could provide a letter of reference (reference letters are not required at this stage)

Contact /Further Information

Prof. Ludwig Huber

Email ludwig.huber@vetmeduni.ac.at

<https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/messerli/>

Minimum salary

The minimum salary for university staff is regulated by the collective contract and at the level given above amounts to EUR 3.711,10 gross per month (14 times/year). The minimum salary may be increased when previous employment and other salary components are taken into account.

Applications

Please submit applications quoting the **reference number 2018/0817** via e-mail (preferably) to bewerbungen@vetmeduni.ac.at or by post to the Personnel Department of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinärplatz 1, 1210 Vienna. Please do not forget to include the reference number or we shall be unable to relate your application to the correct vacancy announcement.

The Vetmeduni Vienna is attempting to increase the proportion of female staff, particularly in senior positions, and in accordance with § 41 of the 2002 Universities Act it is striving to attain a balanced representation of men and women, especially on its scientific staff. Applications from qualified women are thus particularly welcomed. If women are underrepresented (below 50%), female applicants who are as well qualified as the best qualified male applicants will be given preference, provided that there are no strong reasons for favouring a particular male candidate.

Applicants have no entitlement to reimbursement of any travel or accommodation costs they may incur as a result of the application procedure.

The Vetmeduni Vienna is proud to have been awarded the certificate "*hochschuleundfamilie*" (career and family). We should thus be especially pleased to receive applications from people with families. Applications from persons with disabilities are similarly welcome.