

PhD position in Animal Behaviour: Information-use and Communication in Ants

Application deadline: **19th September 2016**

We invite applications for a 3-year DFG (German Research Foundation) funded PhD position (65% TVL E13) at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany. We are looking for a highly motivated student to study communication and foraging in ants. The project investigates foraging strategies in ants that use tandem running as a recruitment strategy (mainly *Temnothorax* and *Pachycondyla*). The research will include experimental work in both laboratory and field (including field trips to Brazil) and a possibility to combine empirical work with simulation modeling.

We are looking for a candidate with a Masters degree (or equivalent) in Biology and a strong background in behaviour, ecology or evolution. Good English skills and an ability to work independently and as part of a team are important. Experience with social insects, statistical or modeling methods and a knowledge of German are helpful but not a requirement. The working language of the laboratory is English. The Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz is interested in increasing the number of women in science. Applications from women are therefore strongly encouraged. Similarly, qualified candidates with disabilities will be preferred.

The successful applicant will join an international and interactive scientific environment with access to state-of-the-art, newly equipped laboratories. More information about our research interests and recent publications can be found here: http://www.bio.uni-mainz.de/zoo/evobio/index_ENG.php. The University of Mainz hosts many excellent scientific institutions (<http://www.uni-mainz.de/eng/>) and Mainz is a historic city located on the Rhine River with a large student population and a rich social and cultural life.

How to apply: applications should include (1) a 1-page cover letter describing your motivation, previous research activities and current research interests, (2) a CV of the applicant and (3) the names and email addresses of 2 referees. Send all documents as a single pdf-file before the **19th September 2016** to cgrueter@uni-mainz.de. Applications must be written in English. Skype-interviews for short-listed candidates will be scheduled for early October. Earliest possible start date is December 2016. Informal enquiries should be sent to:

Dr. Christoph Grüter (main supervisor)

E-Mail: cgrueter@uni-mainz.de

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