

PhD position

Genomic basis of honeybee foraging and decision-making

Application deadline: **1st April 2018**

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 the **genomic basis of honeybee foraging behaviour**. Honeybees exhibit sophisticated communication and decision-making processes. Their behaviour is highly flexible and is shaped by recent foraging experiences. However, the genomic and transcriptomic basis of decision-making in foraging bees is not well understood. The PhD project will investigate **if and how the expression of behavioral genes in the brain affects foraging and decision-making**. The successful applicant will perform behavioural experiments with free-flying bees, pharmacological treatments of bees, brain dissections and gene expression analysis using bioinformatic tools.

Students with a **Masters degree in Biology** and a strong background in **behaviour and/or bioinformatics** are particularly encouraged to apply. Good English skills and an ability to work as part of a team are important. Previous experience with honeybees, behavioral experiments, bioinformatics and a knowledge of German are helpful, but not a prerequisite. The working language of our group 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** and (3) the names and email addresses of **2 referees**. Send all documents as a **single pdf-file** before **1st April 2018** to cgrueter@uni-mainz.de and foitzik@uni-mainz.de. Applications must be written in English. Skype-interviews for short-listed candidates will be scheduled for mid-April. The ideal start date is June 2018. Informal enquiries can be sent to: Dr. Christoph Grüter (cgrueter@uni-mainz.de) or Prof. Susanne Foitzik (foitzik@uni-mainz.de), Institute of Organismic and Molecular Evolution, University of Mainz, Germany.

