

1 PhD position on the project:

“How to cope with a changing world? A comparative study with lizards”

We are recruiting an enthusiastic PhD student to join our Behavioural Ecology group, to work on lizard behaviour and cognition, at Bielefeld University (Germany) with field work in Croatia!

In this project, the PhD student will perform several behavioural studies (both field experiments throughout Croatia and lab experiments at Bielefeld University) that will assess the cognitive abilities, use of social information, and personality of different lizard species from Croatia. Importantly, these lizards differ in their ability to endure anthropogenic conditions and thus can help us understand how some species deal with human-induced rapid environmental changes. The candidate will also have the opportunity to develop their own ideas and build their research interests into the project. This position (TVL 13/65%) is funded by the DFG for a duration of 3 years. Full funding is available for field and lab work, and for attending conferences.



We seek a highly motivated student with a master's degree or equivalent in a relevant field (e.g. animal behaviour, behavioural ecology, cognition, biodiversity, conservation, evolutionary ecology, herpetology). The candidate should have great statistical knowledge, organisational and troubleshooting ability, excellent spoken and written English, and be able to work both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team. Ideally, the candidate should have experience in behavioural experiments and in publishing scientific papers, be interested in the topic of the project, should be creative to design behavioural protocols, have some experience with reptiles, and have a driver's licence. We encourage and expect the student to publish several scientific papers during their PhD, and to outreach their work. As we will conduct fieldwork in Croatia every year (maximum 3 months, from April/May to July/August), the candidate should be able to withstand varied field conditions – from working in urban environments, to more rural and wild locations. They should thus be physically fit to endure field work, and comfortable with working long hours outdoors under high temperatures and driving between different locations.

If you decide to come on this amazing research adventure, you will be joining our Behavioural Ecology department (www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/biologie/forschung/arbeitsgruppen/behav_eco/), and will be supervised by Dr. Isabel Damas Moreira and Prof. Dr. Barbara Caspers. The Behavioural Ecology department is a young, multidisciplinary and international group. Our work environment is productive, inclusive and supportive. We closely collaborate with other groups at the university that work on related topics in behaviour, ecology, and evolution; and the working language is English. This offers a stimulating international environment and an excellent research infrastructure. Bielefeld is a city of 333 000 inhabitants, having an odd blend of big city flair infused with pockets of quiet, simple rural life and easy access to the Teutoburger Forest for hiking and other outdoor pursuits. Its location also offers easy access to other German cities and nearby countries.

To apply, please send (i) your CV, (ii) a letter of motivation, and (iii) the contact details of two referees as a single PDF to isabel.damas@uni-bielefeld.de. Please make sure to use “PhD application Wiss22199” in the e-mail subject.

Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements as an equal-opportunity employer and has been recognized as a family-friendly university. The university encourages applications from women and people with disabilities. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the state statutes on equal opportunity.

The deadline for applications is 24.02.2022 and interviews will be held shortly after.

The position should start no later than 01.05.2022.