



The Leibniz Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), located in Dummerstorf near Rostock, is a foundation under public law. The Institute with about 300 employees is performing fundamental and applied research in the field of the biology of farm animals.

The **Institute of Behavioural Physiology** is seeking a highly motivated

**PhD student position (m/f/d) on Early Life Programming Effects
for 36 months preferably beginning in April 2021.**

Reference number: 2021-05

Task description:

We are looking for a highly motivated doctoral student to join our DFG-funded project (MO 4011/1-1; GI 413/4-1) entitled: 'Programming effects of maternal stress during lactation: Investigating offspring neuroendocrine, behavioral and immunological responses to early life adversity in a pig model.' Our project will investigate how maternal behavioral, immunological and physiological parameters interact to influence offspring development, using a pig model. Your role will be to analyze physiological and behavioral measures to characterize phenotypes of offspring with different early life experiences. For the physiological analyses, you will measure the stress hormone cortisol and the neuropeptide hormone oxytocin in sows and their offspring under baseline conditions and in response to specific events, including maternal separations and reunions. Behavioral analyses will be based on the coding of video observations of lactating mothers and their offspring, including nursing behavior and responses to separations and reunions. You will also analyze behavior of the offspring after weaning, to test how different early maternal environments influence later social competence. Your research will provide new insights into how early life experiences influence hormonal systems that are important for stress regulation and social support.

Requirements:

We are seeking a candidate with previous experience and interest in behavioral physiology, who would like to gain new laboratory skills and who can work well as a part of a team. The ideal candidate will have a Master's degree or equivalent in a life science-related discipline, previous laboratory experience and strong communicative skills, including fluency in spoken and written English. German language proficiency, statistical training and knowledge of the R programming language would also be helpful.

We offer:

- A dynamic and rewarding job in a performance-oriented and family-friendly environment
- Modern research facilities and a strong focus on international collaboration
- Employment conditions according to the provisions of Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder (TV-L), remuneration at the level of **65% of salary grade 13 TV-L**, if the personal requirements are met. The salary will include health insurance.
- Participation in the company pension scheme (VBL)
- Active support in all formal matters concerning settling into a new living and work environment

The compatibility of career and family is one of our central concerns. We strive to increase the representation of women in science. Differently-abled applicants with the same aptitude, skills and professional qualifications have priority in the hiring process. International applications are welcome.

For further information please contact **Dr. Liza R. Moscovice** (moscovice@fbn-dummerstorf.de; Tel. 038208-68820).

Application and travel expenses in the context of the application cannot be reimbursed. By submitting your application, you consent to the processing of your personal data for the purpose of the application procedure.

We look forward to receiving your application including: A one-page letter of motivation, a curriculum vitae, copies of your qualification certificates and the names of two references. Please send them **as one pdf file** including the job number to:

personal@fbn-dummerstorf.de
Subject: Verwaltung (St.-Nr. 2021-05)

Leibniz-Institut für Nutztierbiologie (FBN)
Verwaltung (**St.-Nr. 2021-05**)
Wilhelm-Stahl-Allee 2
18196 Dummerstorf
Germany



The selection process begins immediately and continues until the position is filled.
Further information about the research institute can be found on the Internet at: www.fbn-dummerstorf.de.