

## PhD position in Bee-Plant Interactions

A PhD position is available as part of a collaborative project between the **Plant-Insect Interactions Group (Life Science Systems) at the Technical University of Munich (TUM)** and the **Department of Behavioral Physiology and Sociobiology at the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg (JMU)**. Starting date is May 1st 2021. The position is fixed-term (36 months, split between universities). Salary scale: TV-L 13, 65%.

### *Project description*

Bees decline worldwide and many of the discussed causes are directly or indirectly linked to nutrition. As part of a close collaboration between Würzburg (J. Spaethe lab) and Freising (S. Leonhardt lab), we want to elucidate how nutrient perception, nutrient regulation and fitness are linked to pollen chemistry and collection in bees.

The successful applicant will conduct laboratory experiments and fieldwork, including learning experiments and dietary bioassays with bees, observing bee foraging behaviour in the field, chemical analyses of pollen and statistical analyses.

### *Applications and further information*

We invite applications from highly motivated candidates with passion for and experience in research related to sensory ecology and plant-insect interactions. Please send your application via eMail to Dr. Sara Leonhardt (leonhardt@wzw.tum.de) as a single PDF document until **31st January 2021**. Applications should include a cover letter, a short summary of research interests and experience, CV, certificates, and contacts of two potential referees.

### *We require*

- Strong interest and motivation in conducting research in sensory ecology and pollination interaction in the lab and the field.
- MSc/Diplom (DE) in a field related to physiology (e.g. sensory physiology, learning) or ecology (e.g. pollination ecology, chemical ecology).
- Experience with conducting behavioural experiments, chemical analyses and/or fieldwork in insect-flower interactions.
- Willingness to work in an international team and to become acquainted with the above topics.
- Excellent command of English language (written & oral) and experience with scientific writing.
- Flexibility and willingness to work at both universities over the course of the project.

### *We offer*

- Friendly and inspiring working atmosphere in international ambitious young research work groups.
- Free access to transferable skill and statistical courses as part of the JMU/TUM Graduate School of Life Sciences.

### *Salary & Conditions*

The TUM and JMU are an equal opportunity employers, i.e. female scientists are particularly encouraged to apply and disabled applicants will be preferentially considered in case of equivalent aptitude.