



The Max Planck Institute for Ornithology (MPIO) in Seewiesen (located near Starnberg about 50 km from Munich) is an internationally renowned research institution with more than 200 employees working in two departments and seven research groups. The MPIO employs a dynamic, dedicated, and international group of researchers who are focused on exploring the fields of evolution, ecology, genetics, and neurobiology. It features an exceptional infrastructure with state-of-the-art laboratories dedicated to hormone, neurological and genetic research.

A fully funded PhD position is available in the research group of Clemens Kuepper (<https://www.orn.mpg.de/Research-Group-Kuepper>) at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology (MPIO) in Seewiesen, Germany.

PhD opportunity in Behavioural and Evolutionary Genomics

We are interested in the evolutionary and ecological mechanisms that maintain diversity in social behaviour using an integrative approach. Example publications are here:

<https://www.orn.mpg.de/3872051/publications>.

The project, which is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), builds on our description of genomic differences between the three male mating morphs in Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* (Küpper et al. 2016 Nature Genetics <https://doi.org/10.1038/ng.3443>). Ruffs, provide a flamboyant avian model system to understand the genomic underpinnings of male alternative reproductive strategies. Over the course of the project, we will characterize comprehensively transcriptomic differences of several brain and organ tissues from embryos, chicks and adults to determine differences in gene regulation and alternative splicing between morphs. The current project is a collaboration with Katja Nowick, FU Berlin. Tissue sampling and laboratory work will be conducted in the captive Ruff population at MPIO.

Candidates should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Biology with a specialization in e.g. neurogenetics, genetics/genomics and/or computational biology. Experiences with RNA Seq methodology and bioinformatic analysis are desirable. The candidate will have the opportunity to join the Nowick lab

(https://www.bcp.fu-berlin.de/en/biologie/arbeitsgruppen/zoologie/ag_nowick/index.html)

for customized bioinformatic training. Strong self-motivation, an ability to work independently and in a team are an absolute must for successful candidates in this highly collaborative research effort. For further questions please contact ckuepper@orn.mpg.de.

The position is funded for three years. The salary will be paid in accordance with the German Tarifvertrag des öffentlichen Dienstes (TVöD Bund), salary group 13 (65%). Qualified PhD candidates can apply to join the International Max-Planck Research School for Organismal Biology that offers unique training opportunities. The Max-Planck Society is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals.

Your application

To apply please send (1) your CV, (2) a letter of motivation, and (3) the contact details of at least two referees under this link:

https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/mpg/maor/perso/orni_w003.nsf/application

Review of applications will begin on 10 May 2021 until the position is filled.

The starting date is negotiable, ideally the 1st June 2021 but no later than 1 September 2021.

