

PhD position in Raptor / Parasite Ecology, Bielefeld, Germany

We are looking for a bright student to join our research on birds of prey. Together we use cutting-edge technologies to understand the ecology, behaviour, physiology and ecology of these fantastic birds and publish prominently about them!

We seek a highly motivated student with a MSc degree or equivalent in a relevant field (e.g. animal behaviour, behavioural ecology, population ecology, evolutionary ecology, wildlife -omics, ornithology, parasitology) who wants to work with the coolest birds possible but also to build a scientific career with them. Organisational skills, knowledge on hot topics in ecology and evolution, and own ideas in some of these fields are indispensable. The ideal candidate will additionally be able to work both independently and as part of a team, will have experience in statistics and/or bioinformatics and excellent spoken and written English.



WHERE: You will join our team at the [Department of Animal Behaviour in Bielefeld University](#), Germany. Field work takes place around Bielefeld, where we have been studying the raptor populations over 30 years.

WHEN: Submission deadline is 01.03.2023. The field season starts in mid-March and optimally by then our joint brainstorming will allow you to collect data for your own project. Much data already waits for you.

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING: You will start with field work and progress fast to analyses and manuscript preparation. These have to be driven by your enthusiasm and scientific creativity (which you can exemplify in the requested proposal 3, see below). The field work involves nest searching and checks, nest video surveillance and sampling of raptor nestlings during spring and summer, as well as combining analyses of transmitter tags, -omics, parasites and other life history data. Genuinely enjoying both field work with birds and wielding of scientific ideas is essential, as is the curiousness to integrate and extend what is known in a greater context.

WHAT WE OFFER YOU: A stipend for one year – time for you to crystalize and compose your own PhD project, which we together will submit to get full funding for your project. Doing homework and having ideas for action, fitting to past efforts, existing infrastructure and/or unexplored gaps, will make this process much more efficient and show that your MSc was not wasted time and neither will be you PhD. Once funding is granted you will start a fully funded 3-year PhD position (salary 65% 13 TV-L) including many training opportunities. Multiple alternative solutions exist.

The student will be supervised by Dr. Nayden Chakarov and Prof. Oliver Krüger in a very friendly and cooperative group. Our department is the oldest of its kind in Germany and currently hosts seven principal investigators, ten postdocs, and 20 PhD students from over ten different countries, working on related topics in behaviour, ecology, and evolution. It offers a stimulating international environment and an excellent research infrastructure. The working language is English. Bielefeld is a city of 333,000 inhabitants, having an odd blend of big city flair with pockets of quiet, simple rural life and easy access to the Teutoburger Forest for hiking and other outdoor pursuits.

HOW TO APPLY: Please send as a single PDF file to: nayden.chakarov@uni-bielefeld.de including (1) your CV, (2) a 1-2-page letter of motivation including a statement of your research experience and how it fits the specific project, (3) a 1-2 page research proposal, including sufficiently underexplored scientific ideas which you personally might want to study over the next years and explanation why they deserve investment, (4) the contact details of three referees. Review of applications will begin upon arrival. Interview invitations will be sent in the beginning of March. For further information, please see the [department webpage](#) or contact Nayden Chakarov via email.

The University of Bielefeld is an equal opportunity employer. We particularly welcome applications from women and handicapped people. Given equal suitability, qualifications and professional achievement, women and handicapped people will be given preference, unless particular circumstances apply.