

Open PhD position in Neuroscience

The Chair of Animal Physiology/Neurobiology (<http://www.tierphys.nat.fau.de>) at the Department of Biology, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) invites applications for a PhD position in Neuroscience.

The labs of Dr. Gierke and Prof. Dr. Johann Helmut Brandstätter are interested in the molecular mechanisms underlying synaptic transmission at the first synapse of the visual system. We study rod and cone photoreceptor ribbon synapses of the mouse retina as a model system with a multidisciplinary approach including standard (TEM) and advanced (HPF/FS) electron microscopy, CLSM and STED, molecular biology, and biochemistry. A special focus of the DFG-funded project is the elucidation of synaptic vesicle tethering, a key molecular process that regulates the supply of synaptic vesicles at chemical synapses.

The ideal applicant should have a strong interest in basic neuroscience and super resolution microscopy techniques.

The successful applicant will join an international group of experimental neurobiologists with close links to the medical and technical faculties and access to several core facilities. The project is further strengthened by a national research collaboration with the lab of Prof. Dr. Carolin Wichmann, an expert in the field of ribbon synapse biology and HPF/FS electron microscopy at the Institute for Auditory Neuroscience, University Medicine Göttingen.

Required qualifications:

- A concluded (or soon to be concluded) Master's degree (M.Sc.) in the life sciences (biology, biophysics or similar), preferably with a background and/or a strong interest in neurobiology.
- Fluency in English, knowledge of German is an advantage.

The successful applicant is expected to:

- Plan and conduct the experiments outlined in the DFG-funded proposal
- Travel to Göttingen several times per year to learn and perform advanced electron microscopy (HPF/FS) experiments in the lab of Prof. Wichmann
- Analyze, interpret, and prepare data for publication in peer-reviewed journals and present the work at national and international conferences

We look forward to your application. Please send it as a single pdf file to: kaspar.gierke@fau.de. The application documents should include:

- Curriculum vitae
- Short (~half page) letter of motivation
- Copies of Bachelor and Master's degree

Application deadline:

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.