

Open Postdoc & PhD positions in Evolutionary Genetics at the Department of Biology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland



The **Flatt lab** at the **Department of Biology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland** has openings for a **Postdoctoral Researcher** and a **PhD student** in **Evolutionary Genetics** to study fundamental questions about the maintenance of adaptive polymorphisms in natural populations by different forms of balancing selection.

The Postdoc and PhD student will work on a new project, funded by the *Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)*, focusing on **chromosome inversions**/"supergenes" in the ancestral African range of fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) and how they are maintained by **balancing selection**. The project entails an **exciting combination of approaches** spanning population genomics, bioinformatics, transcriptomics, phenotypic assays of fitness-related traits, experiments with population cages (mesocosms) both in the laboratory and outdoors, as well as field work.

The Postdoc and PhD student will be **embedded in a larger project team** in the Flatt lab, involving a senior postdoc, a technician and several undergraduate students, as well as in close collaboration with our **international project partners** Rashidatu Abdulazeez (Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria), Martin Kapun (Natural History Museum Vienna), Miyanda Moonga (University of Zambia), Paul Schmidt (University of Pennsylvania), John Pool (University of Wisconsin), and others.

We are looking for **highly motivated candidates with a strong background in evolutionary biology and/or population genetics**, and with a keen interest in combining experimental and computational work. Prior experience with population genomic analyses/bioinformatics and/or *Drosophila* evolutionary genetics would be a plus. Candidates should be self-motivated and driven by scientific curiosity; possess a strong work ethos; be able to work independently; have strong communication and interpersonal skills as well as the ability to integrate and work in a team.

Our lab and the Department of Biology offer a friendly and stimulating work environment, with excellent conditions in terms of infrastructure, know-how, and collaboration. **Fribourg is vibrant medieval university town** with a large student population (<https://www.unifr.ch/studies/en/choose-fribourg/life-in-fribourg.html>), situated close to the capital of Bern and the beautiful Swiss pre-Alps and Alps. For more information on our research see <https://www.unifr.ch/bio/en/research/eco-evol/flatt.html>. For more information on the Department of Biology at Fribourg see: <https://www.unifr.ch/bio/en/>.

Starting date by arrangement; each position for up to a **maximum of 4 years**; salary according to institutional and SNSF guidelines. **Please send:** a motivation letter, CV, description of previous research, and the names and contact details of three references in a single pdf file to: thomas.flatt@unifr.ch. **Deadline: 5 November 2023.**