At the University of Graz, researchers and students work across a broad disciplinary spectrum to enlarge our knowledge and find strategies to deal with challenges our society is confronted with and to shape tomorrow's world. The University of Graz is a place which combines high quality academic research and teaching, where achievement is rewarded, careers are promoted, and social diversity is encouraged – all within a modern, award-winning working environment. Our motto: We work for tomorrow. Join us!

The Institute of Biology is looking for a University Assistant without doctorate (m/f/d)

PROJECT
Navigation is a fundamental behaviour across the animal kingdom. Ants and other social insects represent an excellent example for navigational skills as foragers return several times a day with their booty to provide nutrition and water for their colonies. One of the expert navigators amongst insects are desert ants. Those diurnal foragers venture out and search for food solitarily and must find their way back to their nest in due time not to become victim of the scorching heat. Hence, their exceptional navigational abilities, which are predominantly based on visual terrestrial and celestial compass cues. Although researchers have found numerous new insights regarding ant navigation during the last decades, several open questions remain. This project aims to answer some of those open questions.

POSITION
The 4-year position is aimed at obtaining a PhD degree in the group of Sebastian Schwarz. The candidate will focus on behavioural experiments with (desert) ants in the field and in the lab. Field work will be carried out in Seville, Spain and possibly in Australia. Lab work will be carried out at the University of Graz. One aim of the project is to better understand the interaction of proprioception in navigational processes. Another aim is to investigate the perception of time and potential underlying mechanisms in navigating ants. As two field work sites with different ant species are available, a comparative approach investigating behavioural and/or (neuro) anatomical similarities and differences is also likely.

CANDIDATE
Applicants must have a MSc (or equivalent degree) in biology. A background in animal behaviour, behaviour ecology or animal ecology is preferable. A high commitment and motivation for scientific work is expected. Because the candidate will spend a substantial time in hot and arid climates to conduct field experiments, resistance to extreme and harsh weather conditions and physical health is essential. Prior practical experience with field work and knowledge in ethology is advantageous. Strong statistical and analytical skills are desired – additional computational skills are beneficial. The candidate is also expected to have good social and collaborative skills and an appropriate level of English for both communication and scientific writing. A driving licence would be desirable.

APPLICATION
Applications can be submitted through the link below until the 24.04.2024.
Further details about the job conditions can also be found in the link below.

https://jobs.uni-graz.at/de/jobs/58705d33-3d41-9bc8-0304-65ded7e07b28?preview=true