

Doctoral researcher (f/m/d) in sensory ecology of fish in the Cluster of Excellence NaviSense

Paygrade

E13 TV-L

Working hours

65%

Institution

Faculty V, Institute of Biologie and Environmental Science (IBU), Sensory Biology of Animals, Cluster of Excellence NaviSense

Location

Oldenburg (Lower Saxony)

Application Deadline

9.3.2026

First day of work

1.5.2026

Limited

To 3 years

About us

The newly funded Cluster of Excellence **NaviSense** for the Sensory Basis, Mechanisms, and Impacts of Animal Navigation is a highly collaborative, interdisciplinary research project hosted at the University of Oldenburg and involving national and international partner institutions. As a diverse and international team of scientists from biology, physics, chemistry, computer sciences and social sciences we provide a thorough, interdisciplinary understanding of the senses and mechanisms used by animals to navigate, and how these mechanisms can inspire technology and impact society, ecology, and biodiversity.

NaviSense performs research in the areas of (1) animal navigation mechanisms and their underlying senses, (2) quantum effects at ambient temperature in model systems and biology, (3) ecological and conservation related consequences of animal navigation, and (4) links biological and technical systems through models, algorithms, and devices. The acquired knowledge can help to solve major societal questions related e.g. to the biodiversity crisis, GPS independent navigation, and quantum sensing at ambient temperature. For more information see <https://navisense.org/>.

The PhD project is about the sensory ecology of fish, with emphasis on the magnetic sense, and set in the broader context of NaviSense research field “ecological and conservation related consequences of animal navigation”. Specifically, the work comprises behavioural experiments to quantify spontaneous and learned responses to potentially distracting anthropogenic stimuli.

The position offers interdisciplinary training at the interface of behavioural biology, sensory physiology, and experimental laboratory research.

Your tasks

- Conduct behavioural experiments in the lab
- Video analysis of large data sets
- Statistical analysis (using R or python)

- Collaborating with other researchers on interdisciplinary research projects and publications
- Participation in NaviSense events like retreats and seminars to present your research, strengthen scientific discussions and team building (considering individual possibilities)
- Mandatory participation in our qualification program hosted in the *NavNextGen Academy* (see below)

Your profile

Required qualifications:

- MSc degree or equivalent in a relevant subject, e.g., biology, zoology, neuroscience, psychology
- Research experience in behaviour
- Fluency in spoken and written English

Preferable/Desirable:

- Dedication for the research field
- Enthusiasm for and willingness to engage in interdisciplinary and international collaborations across many different fields of expertise
- Ability to work independently
- Showing team spirit
- Good communication skills

We offer

- Being part of a unique interdisciplinary, collaborative, international and diverse research team and scientific environment
- Access to a very wide range of expertise, modern equipment and state-of-the-art techniques
- You and your peers will be part of our qualification program hosted in the *NavNextGen Academy* which will allow you to participate in conferences, excursions, courses, and workshops with great networking opportunities, research training, and career and mentoring programs, to further promote your personal and professional development
- Guidance during your onboarding phase and support during your doctorate
- Payment in accordance with collective bargaining law (special annual payment, public service pension scheme, asset-related benefits) incl. 30 days annual leave
- A family-friendly environment with flexible working hours
- Benefits from the university's health promotion program and possibility to participate in the university sports program

Benefits at University of Oldenburg (is given automatically by UOL)

- 30 days vacation
- Secure remuneration according to collective agreement
- Company pension scheme
- Further education opportunities
- Flexible working hours
- Health management
- Remote working
- Compatibility of career and family
- Support with childcare
- University Sports Centre

Our standards (is given automatically by UOL)

The University of Oldenburg is dedicated to increase the percentage of female employees in the field of science. Therefore, female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. In accordance to § 21 Section 3 NHG, female candidates with equal qualifications will be preferentially considered. Applicants with disabilities will be given preference in case of equal qualification.

Contact

For further information, please contact

Prof Michael Winklhofer

michael.winklhofer@uol.de

Apply now

Please send your application via e-mail by 9.3.2026 to michael.winklhofer@uol.de with reference to: NaviSense PhD position sensory ecology of fish

Please send your application, including a letter of motivation, your CV and publication(s) (if applicable), along with the names and addresses of at least two references who are familiar with your work, and copies of your university certificates in a joint pdf document to the above email address. You are welcome to let us know which pronouns you use and how we may address you.

Regulations prohibit reimbursement of application and interview expenses.