

PhD position (m/f/d) in Biology at the Apicultural State Institute at the University of Hohenheim, Germany. Application deadline: March 15th, 2023

At the Apicultural State Institute at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany (<https://bienenkunde.uni-hohenheim.de/>) we are looking to fill a PhD position for 36 months (TV-L E13 65%) as soon as possible. We are looking for a highly motivated candidate (m/f/d) with interest in host-parasite interactions of honey bees and *Varroa destructor*, preferably with experience in molecular biology.



Research Project:

The PhD student will design and develop several experiments to study the highly adapted parasite *Varroa destructor* and its effects on adult bees and bee brood. The adaptability of Varroa mites has been underestimated. Basic knowledge gaps of its biology and host-finding behavior still exist. The impact of *V. destructor* on honey bee biomarkers for stress resistance, the parasite's vector capacity, and the virus transmission dynamics between parasites, hosts and neighboring colonies still needs to be explored. As this research is not tied to a specific project, the PhD student has the freedom to investigate relevant questions of this unique host-parasite relationship.

Your Scientific Responsibilities:

- Design and conduct research experiments to decipher the basic biology of *Varroa destructor*.
- Conduct field and cage studies, integrating quantifications of relevant gene expression
- Collaborate with other students and scientists at the institute working on similar projects to combine field work with molecular results
- Assist with the set-up and operation of our new molecular lab
- Coordinate and advise student assistants; help oversee bachelor and master projects that complement your research
- Statistical analysis of data and publishing peer-reviewed scientific papers

Skillset of Applicants:

- University degree (MSc, Diploma) in biology, zoology, life sciences or related subjects.
- Experience in molecular genetics and statistical data analysis (preferably in R)
- Very good skills in writing scientific texts
- Prior knowledge of honey bees and *Varroa destructor* is desired
- Capable of detailed planning and independent work
- Very good communication skills and should enjoy teamwork

The benefits of the Apicultural State Institute at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany:

- Cooperation in a friendly, supportive and scientifically ambitious team
- The opportunity to develop and implement your own ideas and to help shape our new molecular laboratory

- A structured PhD research program with excellent opportunities at a University known for its agricultural and applied sciences

Disabled individuals with equal aptitude will be given preference. As the university would like to increase its proportion of female scientists, applications from women are particularly welcome.

Please submit applications with a cover letter describing your research interests and motivations for applying for this position, include your earliest possible start date, as well as two references. Applications should be submitted as one combined pdf document emailed directly to kirsten.traynor@uni-hohenheim.de by March 15th, 2023. Interviews will most likely take place between April 3rd and 6th, 2023. If you have any questions or seek additional information, please contact Dr Kirsten Traynor at the email address given above or by telephone at +49 (0)711 459 22661.