

The University of Vienna (20 faculties and centres, 178 fields of study, approx. 9.800 members of staff, about 90.000 students) seeks to fill the position of a

PhD Candidate (m/f/d) in Behavioral and Cognitive Biology

The research group of Prof. Thomas Bugnyar at the Department of Behavioral and Cognitive Biology (<http://cogbio.univie.ac.at>) has funding available for a three-year PhD position within the FWF-project 'Effects of early-life experience on raven social competence'. The PhD candidate will join a team of postdocs and PhD candidates working on different aspects of raven behavior and cognition, with a particular interest on individual variation. The PhD project will focus on the social behavior and network structure in free-flying ravens that have experienced different upbringing conditions (raised in large or small families, as a result of our annual manipulation of offspring number per breeding pair). The work will feature observational and experimental approaches, using a variety of field techniques (e.g. playback, GPS tracking).

The 3-year PhD position is fully paid (30 hours-week) and is based at the Konrad Lorenz Forschungsstelle (KLF), a field station of University of Vienna in the Austrian Alps near Grünau im Almtal. The successful candidate will be embedded in a thriving scientific environment at KLF and at the Department of Behavioral and Cognitive Biology in Vienna, with access to state-of-the-art facilities and high-level scientific talks. The working language of our group is English, and we welcome students from all over the world.

The PhD candidate will be embedded in the Vienna Doctoral School for Cognition, Behavior and Neuroscience (VDS CoBeNe) at the University of Vienna (<https://vds-cobene.univie.ac.at>). The main goal of VDS CoBeNe is quality assurance in PhD training and education. In addition, the organization stands for promotion of inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge exchange.

Profile:

- Above average Masters degree in animal behavior, animal cognition, physiology, zoology, neuroscience or related disciplines
- Proficient knowledge of English
- Strong computational skills
- Experience of designing and conducting behavioral experiments
- Genuine interest in studying behavior under field-like conditions
- Dedication to scientific research, independence, and good team skills

Further desirable qualifications:

- Research experience in animal behavior and/or knowledge of acoustic communication
- Previous experience in playback studies, video analysis, cognitive experiments
- Previous experience with fieldwork and working in a research team
- Applicants with prior publications will be favored

Letters of application including CV, 2 letters of recommendation and a 1-page statement of research interests should be sent to the VDS CoBeNe (vds.cobene@univie.ac.at) until March 1st, 2021. Planned starting date is May, 2021, but can be discussed, if required.

The University of Vienna promotes the employment of woman in fields of work in which they are underrepresented and therefore encourages qualified women to apply to this opening. Disabled people will be preferentially treated if qualified.