

# 11 PhD POSITIONS FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COGNITION AND COMMUNICATION

Funded by the Austrian Science Foundation FWF and the  
Messerli Research Institute. Info: <https://cogcom.univie.ac.at>



## 11 University Assistants (PhD positions) in FWF-funded doctoral program Cognition and Communication

In recent years, Vienna has become an important center for comparative behavioral and cognitive research, with a strong and growing research focus on cognitive biology. The Austrian Science Fund (FWF), the University of Vienna and the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna have supported this development, by funding a multi-level, integrative PhD training program (Doctoral College) on Cognition and Communication in humans and non-human animals.

The goal is to train graduate students to conduct interdisciplinary research into cognition from a biological viewpoint, with a focus on how animals including humans solve real-world problems, such as dealing with conspecifics in daily social life. Communication is studied as an important window into cognition, allowing us to design experiments testing specific hypotheses developed through an innovative combination of field observations and experiments, and laboratory work on humans and other animals.

The trainees will learn to study animal and human behavior in a variety of cognitive and ethological frameworks in both the laboratory and in the field and will work with a diversity of species including amphibians (frogs), reptiles (crocodilians), birds (e.g., pigeons, corvids, parrots, Darwin finches), elephants, pigs, canines (wolves and dogs), humans (including brain imaging), and nonhuman primates (marmosets). The language of the doctoral program is English.

The PhD positions will be based at the Department of Cognitive Biology, University of Vienna, (7 positions) and at the Messerli Research Institute, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna (4 positions). Supervision is in the hands of 10 internationally respected scientists, supported by a coordinator and an organizational assistant.

**DK Faculty/Supervisors include:**

Tecumseh Fitch (speaker), Ludwig Huber (co-speaker), Thomas Bugnyar, Leonida Fusani, Walter Hödl, Kurt Kotrschal, Claus Lamm, Friederike Range, Angela Stoeger, Sabine Tebbich

**Duration of contract:** 3 years with the potential prolongation of another 12 months

**Extent of Employment:** 30.0 hours/week

Occupation group in accordance with Austrian University collective bargaining agreement: §48 VwGr. B1 Grundstufe (pre-doc).

**Research Topics:** Candidates should have a good knowledge of the types of research we perform, and specify their research interests and potential supervisor(s).

**Duties:** Participation in research, teaching and administration, including:

- Participation in scientific research
- Participation in peer-reviewed publications / public presentations
- Successful candidates must sign a doctoral thesis agreement within 6-12 months.
- Participation in teaching and supervision of students
- Involvement in the organization of meetings, conferences, symposiums
- Involvement in the department administration as well as in teaching and research administration

**Profile of qualification:**

- Training (conceptual and methodological) in behavioural and/or cognitive biology, neuroscience, psychology or related disciplines
- Excellent command of English (both spoken and written)
- Very good ability to express yourself both orally and in writing
- Strong IT user skills (including statistics)
- Ability to work in a multi-national team

**Desirable qualifications:**

- Previous experience in research methods and academic writing
- Knowledge of academic processes and structures
- Experience abroad (research, study, or both)

An application including a letter of motivation, academic curriculum vitae, publication record, evidence of teaching experience (if available), and a short description of one or more potential research project(s), based on the DK faculty interests and project proposals, and including personal insights and/or reflections (all in English), should be uploaded at our website [cogcom.univie.ac.at](http://cogcom.univie.ac.at) no later than May 22<sup>th</sup> 2017. For further information please contact the coordinator [petra.pesak@univie.ac.at](mailto:petra.pesak@univie.ac.at).

The Universities pursue a non-discriminatory employment policy and values equal opportunities, as well as diversity (<http://diversity.univie.ac.at/>). The Universities put special emphasis on increasing the number of women in senior and in academic positions. Given equal qualifications, preference will be given to female applicants.