

PhD position and postdoc position on the evolution of *C. elegans*-microbiota interactions

Deadline for applications: 31 January 2021

The positions are based in the Schulenburg group at the University of Kiel in Northern Germany (<https://www.uni-kiel.de/zoologie/evoecogen/>). The PhD position is available for 3 years, the postdoc position for 2.5 years. Both positions can start as soon as possible. They are part of a larger research initiative on the origin and function of Metaorganisms (<https://www.metaorganism-research.com/>).

Area of research:

The microbiome can affect host fitness and it can change fast, either in community composition or through genetic changes. As a consequence, the microbiome can influence how the host organism copes with novel environments, thereby potentially affecting host evolution. This project aims at understanding how exactly the microbiome modulates host adaptation. The project is based on evolution experiments, in-depth phenotyping, genomics and/or functional genetic analyses. For orientation, see the following papers:

- 1) Kolodny & Schulenburg 2020 (<https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0589>)
- 2) Dirksen et al. 2020 (<https://doi.org/10.1534/g3.120.401309>)
- 3) Papkou et al. 2019 (<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1810402116>)

Expected competences of the successful applicants:

Excellent background in evolutionary biology and/or host-microbiota research and/or *C. elegans* research. Ideally publications in any of the above areas. Competences and experience in experimental work in evolutionary biology (ideally performance of evolution experiments), and/or work with *C. elegans* and/or microbiota analysis. Comprehensive skills in statistical data analysis. Ideally skills in genome data analysis, microbiological techniques, and/or functional genetic analyses. Excellent English language skills.

Additional information:

The University is committed to increasing the proportion of women in research and teaching and therefore strongly encourages applications from appropriately qualified women. Women will be given priority in cases of equal aptitude, ability and professional performance.

The university is committed to the employment of severely disabled persons. Therefore, applicants with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration if they are suitable.

We expressly welcome applications from people with a migration background.

Applications:

Applications should include a motivation letter (max. 2 pages long), CV, publication list, names and contact details of two referees (who are familiar with the applicant's work), and copies of certificates (only for the last relevant university degree). Deadline for applications is 31 January 2021. Applications should be sent as a single pdf-document by email to:

Prof. Dr. Hinrich Schulenburg, hschulenburg@zoologie.uni-kiel.de