

Looking for a PhD student

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Our lab is looking for a PhD student interested in the molecular mechanisms of operant self-learning, a form of motor learning. The work will mainly revolve around the *FoxP* gene – the *Drosophila* orthologue of the language-associated gene [FOXP2](#) in humans (note to self: need to update the Wikipedia entry with the fly [data](#)).

Specifically, the candidate will be involved in generating monoclonal antibodies for at least one, possibly all three isoforms of the gene, they will use modern techniques to disrupt *FoxP* expression and function as well as to tag gene expression during development in the adult and they will both use standard GAL4/UAS transgenes as well as genome editing (e.g., RMCE, CRISPR/Cas9) for these tasks. These molecular, developmental and anatomical data will be combined with the behavioral data from the second student in the team. We do have some [basic primers](#) for the research topic, as well as the [entire proposal](#) available for further reading.

Hence, we are looking for a team-oriented candidate with an inclination for molecular work in the fruit fly *Drosophila*. As is commonplace for Germany, this will be a three-year project, funded by a DFG 65% position, i.e., about 1,600€/month after tax and with full benefits, membership in our graduate schools and all the usual bells and whistles that comes with such a position in Germany. There are no lectures to attend or rotations to adhere to – just 100% of pure, unadulterated research fun. Therefore, we expect a Master's degree or equivalent and at least some course experience in standard molecular cloning techniques, ideally, but not necessarily in *Drosophila*. Any experience in genome editing is a plus, but again, not necessary.

We perform all of our research in the open, meaning that we make all our data and code accessible wherever technically feasible. We are a small, international team of scientists and we would be more than happy to have you join us!

