

PhD position (3 years) in animal behaviour

At the Division of Animal Welfare (Prof. Hanno Würbel), University of Bern, Switzerland, we are seeking a PhD student who is eager to study environmental effects on behaviour and physiology in mice, with an eye to understanding the implications of such plasticity for animal welfare and for the validity of animal research. The project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The successful candidate will be working in a small team together with faculty, two postdocs, and a lab technician and will be able to participate in the training and mentoring of Bachelor and Master students. The PhD project will include experimental studies using laboratory mice to study how pre- and post-natal environmental conditions modulate behaviour, stress, and anxiety. Outcome variables of interest will include behavioural, physiological, and epigenetic measures.

Candidates need a University degree in biology, animal sciences, or biomedical sciences. A background in animal behaviour (basic or applied ethology, behavioural ecology, behavioural neuroscience, or behavioural genetics), experience with laboratory rodents, and training in experimental design and statistics will be a plus.

We offer an attractive academic environment, opportunities to develop the own academic career, and a competitive salary based on the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) scheme.

Please send your application letter together with a motivation statement, your CV, copies of relevant study certificates, and contact details of one or two reference persons (reference letters are not required at this stage) merged into **one single pdf-file** to: hanno.wuerbel@vetsuisse.unibe.ch.

The deadline for application is **August 20, 2018**. The position will be available immediately or at your earliest convenience. Please indicate your preferred and earliest possible start date in the application letter. For informal enquiries, please contact Dr. Bernhard Voelkl: bernhard.voelkl@vetsuisse.unibe.ch.