

## Call for Ph.D. | Marine Biology | University of Rostock

The Department of Marine Biology of the University of Rostock is offering a part-time (26 hrs/week) position as

Doctoral Researcher (PhD student)

starting on the **1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020**. Remuneration is paid in accordance with the TV-L salary scale at level EG 13 part-time 65% monthly gross salary. The employment is temporary for **3 years**.

### Job description

Extreme environments can select for mutualistic interactions between animals and their microbiota which are beneficial and often vital for the survival of the holobionts (i.e. the organized biological units composed of the host and associated microbes). The DFG-funded project CRASSOBIOM will focus on the investigation of the role of microbiome on the physiological stress responses and stress tolerance of an invertebrate host (the Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas*) and test the hypothesis that the interaction of *C. gigas* with its microbiota may facilitate the survival of oysters under the extremely variable and stressful conditions of the intertidal zone of the German Wadden Sea, where oysters invaded in the early 1990ies. The Ph.D. candidate will conduct laboratory experiments and field studies (using whole-organism physiological assessments, biochemical assays and transcriptomics) to assess the effects of microbiota and abiotic stressors on the physiology, immune functions and molecular stress responses in oysters and determine whether the physiological and molecular stress signatures of the host-microbiome interactions can be tracked in the natural habitats with the different degree of abiotic stress. More information about the host laboratory can be found here: <https://www.meeresbiologie.uni-rostock.de/>

The requirements for this position include:

- A completed academic degree (Academic State Exam, Diploma, Master or equivalent degree in Biology) with above-average result.
- Interest in ecological physiology and molecular ecology of marine animals.
- Strong motivation and willingness to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Biology.
- Willingness to conduct the research at two locations, including the University of Rostock and the AWI Wadden Sea Station Sylt.

An ideal candidate for this position is expected to have experience in animal physiology, molecular ecology of marine invertebrates or experimental marine research at M.Sc. level, willingness to learn diverse laboratory and field methods in ecology, physiology, and molecular biology, strong time management, excellent oral and written communication skills, fluency in English, and an ability to work independently and in a team. The project is mostly located at the University of Rostock and involves short-term visits to conduct field experiments, collections and transcriptomic studies at the state-of-the-art marine facility of the AWI Wadden Sea Station on Sylt: <https://www.awi.de/en/about-us/sites/sylt.html>

The successful candidate will be a part of a collaborative research team between the University of Rostock (Prof. Dr. Inna Sokolova), the Wadden Sea Marine Station AWI Sylt/List (PD Dr. Mathias Wegner) and the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW) (Prof. Dr. Matthias Labrenz) and will work closely with a PhD student hosted at the IOW and studying the microbiome of oysters under different environmental conditions.

We offer:

- Participation in an exciting interdisciplinary research program encompassing ecology, physiology and environmental microbiology.
- Broad training in ecological physiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology.
- Training in the soft skills and career mentoring in a dynamic, collegial and collaborative environment.
- Work and study in a traditional, yet innovative, modern and family-friendly university in a lively seaside city.
- Access to the diverse educational and training programs of the Graduate Academy of the University of Rostock (<https://www.uni-rostock.de/en/research/promotion-of-early-career-researchers/graduate-academy/>)
- Employment according to the provisions of the collective agreement for the civil service of German Lands (TV-L).
- Remuneration of 65% of the remuneration group 13 TV-L / 13 Ü if the personal and collectively agreed requirements are met.

The position is expected to start on 01.05.2020 but a short delay is possible. For additional information or inquiries please contact Prof. Dr. Inna Sokolova [inna.sokolova@uni-rostock.de](mailto:inna.sokolova@uni-rostock.de)

We look forward to your email application in English including your CV and relevant transcripts, a letter of motivation and the names of two references. Please send your application stating the position number to [bewerbungen.personal@uni-rostock.de](mailto:bewerbungen.personal@uni-rostock.de). Only applications that are received in PDF format as a single file will be considered.

#### **Additional information:**

The University of Rostock is an equal opportunity employer and a family-friendly university. We welcome applicants regardless of their race, color, religion, family status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or disability status. The University of Rostock is striving to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching and therefore particularly welcomes applications from women.

The Human Resources department (Personalrat) can be consulted on request. Please enclose an informal request for such consultation with your application documents.

The fixed-term employment is based on Section 2 (1) WissZeitVG Law and the relevant guidelines of the University of Rostock.

Unfortunately, the University and the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania cannot cover the expenses related to the preparation of this application or travel expenses associated with the application process.

The protection of your personal data is very important to us. All the data collected during the application process are processed and used in accordance with the relevant data protection regulations.