

## Job advertisement

The Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), under the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, is one of the world's leading research institutions in the fields of animal diseases, animal welfare, animal husbandry, animal nutrition, and livestock genetics.

At our Jena site, within the Institute of Molecular Pathogenesis, is seeking to fill, as soon as possible, the position of a

### **Research Associate (Doctoral Candidate) (m/f/d)**

for the project

### **"Heritability in cattle from a holobiontic perspective (Hi-HOPE)"**

The position is limited to a period of 36 months.

The position holder will focus on the heritability of the gastrointestinal microbiota in cattle based on the animals' genotype. This includes studying the roles of and interactions between commensal and pathogenic bacteria. The research will primarily focus on *E. coli* populations and their potential impact on bovine and human health, determined by analyzing patterns of virulence and resistance genes. Subsequently, the metabolic potential and colonization properties of individual *E. coli* strains will be investigated. The objective is to characterize metabolic interactions between *E. coli* isolates in the gastrointestinal tract, utilizing, among other methods, larvae of the alternative infection model *Galleria mellonella*. Techniques to be employed include culturomics, functional studies, cell culture, next-generation sequencing (NGS), biochemical assays, and competitive growth studies.

The project is being carried out in close collaboration with the MEDIS Research Unit at INRAE (Clermont-Ferrand, France). Therefore, travel to the project partner is an integral part of the doctoral work.

#### **Requirements:**

- A completed university degree in veterinary medicine, (molecular) biology, microbiology, biochemistry, or a related field
- Excellent command of English, both written and spoken

#### **The following qualifications are an advantage:**

- Experience in cell culture and molecular biology
- Background in bacteriology
- Expertise in microbiota research
- High motivation, ability to work in a team, and a reliable working style

The position involves activities in a secure area, which requires a security clearance in accordance with the German Security Clearance Act (SÜG), as well as special protective measures against health hazards. Therefore, personal and medical suitability is a prerequisite for employment.

In addition to varied and challenging work in a scientific environment, we offer:

- Employment under the collective agreement for the public service (TVöD)
- Remuneration at 65% of pay group 13 TVöD-Bund, pay area East
- Excellent research infrastructure and professional supervision
- Opportunities for further training (graduate school, conference participation)

Our institute is committed to providing a family-friendly working environment through flexible working hours. Our employee benefits include occupational health and reintegration management, in-house social counseling, a company pension scheme, and capital-forming benefits. The Jena location is well connected to public transportation.

The Friedrich Loeffler Institute is dedicated to inclusion. We therefore explicitly welcome applications from individuals with severe disabilities, who will be given preferential consideration in the selection process.

In line with our international orientation, we welcome applications from people of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds.

For further information, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Christian Menge at +49 3641 804 2430 or by email at [christian.menge@fli.de](mailto:christian.menge@fli.de), or  
Dr. Panagiotis Sapountzis (INRAE) at [panagiotis.sapountzis@inrae.fr](mailto:panagiotis.sapountzis@inrae.fr)

We look forward to receiving your application! Please send your complete application documents as a single PDF file by **August 31, 2025**, via email to: **047.25@fli.de** with the subject line: **“Position 047/25”**. Alternatively, you can send your application by post to: **Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut**, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 1318, 17466 Greifswald - Insel Riems. Please note that incomplete applications may lead to exclusion from the selection process.

You will receive an acknowledgment of receipt and all further communication via email. Please check your spam filter settings!