

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 institutes in the fields of animal diseases, animal welfare, animal husbandry, animal nutrition, and farm animal 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

“Functional investigation of *Salmonella*-microbiota-host interactions by using novel microaerobic intestinal organoid models from humans and chickens (SalMIOM)”

The position is limited to a period of 36 months.

About the Project: The successful candidate will focus on the molecular interactions between *Salmonella* and the animal gut microbiota. A synthetic avian intestinal microbiota will be established and combined with a microaerobic intestinal organoid model. Subsequently, competitive growth and infection experiments will be carried out using various *Salmonella* mutants. The primary aim is to identify potential probiotic gut bacteria and elucidate their functional role in conferring resilience against *Salmonella* infections. A range of advanced techniques will be used, including cell culture methods, Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS), Omics analyses, biochemical assays, and microscopic imaging. The project will be conducted in close collaboration with Dr. Stephanie Schüller's research group at the University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich, UK. A multi-month research stay at UEA for specialized training on chicken organoid models is an integral part of this PhD program.

Requirements:

- A completed university degree (Master's or equivalent) in (Molecular) Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Veterinary Medicine, or a closely related field
- Excellent written and spoken English skills

The following qualifications are an advantage:

- Experience in cell culture and molecular biology techniques
- Practical experience in bacteriology
- Expertise or research experience in the field of microbiota studies
- High motivation, strong teamwork skills, and a reliable and independent work ethic

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-Bund)
- Remuneration at 65% of pay group 13 TVöD-Bund, pay area East
- Excellent research infrastructure and professional supervision
- Opportunities for further education (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. T. M. Fuchs, Phone: +49 3641 804 2324, Email: ThiloM.Fuchs@fli.de

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: **043.25@fli.de** with the subject line: **“Position 043/25”**. 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!