

External Job Advertisement Reg. Nr. 5-12309/25-D

The Faculty of Natural Sciences, Institute of Biology, at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg is seeking part-time (65 %)

Research assistant (PhD position) (m-f-d)

for a fixed term of 3 years, starting from 01.03.2026.

Remuneration will be determined based on job duties and responsibilities and will be aligned with the fulfillment of listed personal requirements, up to pay grade 13 under the *TV-L (Tarifvertrag für den Öffentlichen Dienst der Länder – 'German Public Service Pay Agreement for the Federal States')*.

We look for a research associate (PhD candidate) for a project aimed at understanding the extent to which the origin of eusociality in the socially variable halictid bees is ascribable to changes in gene regulatory mechanisms. The successful candidate will join the research group of Prof. Robert Paxton (www.zoologie.uni-halle.de/allgemeine_zoologie/research/) and work under the supervision of Dr. Antonella Soro (www.zoologie.uni-halle.de/allgemeine_zoologie/staff/antonella_soro/) in direct collaboration with PD Dr. Sonja Grath at the LMU Munich University (www.lsm.bio.lmu.de/faculty/current-members/grath/index.html).

Job Responsibilities:

- Working on the research project to obtain a doctoral degree
- Planning, preparation and execution of field work in Germany and the Czech Republic
- Use of several state-of-the-art high-throughput sequencing techniques (RNA-Seq, ATAC-Seq, Cut&Tag, Enzyme-Methyl-seq) and their corresponding computational approaches.
- Drafting of manuscripts for publication and preparation of presentations for project related meetings and conferences
- Supervision of BSc and MSc students.

The opportunity to obtain your own academic qualification as part of a doctorate is given.

Requirements:

- Completed scientific university degree (M.Sc./diploma) in Biology or related subject
- Solid understanding of molecular biology
- Basic bioinformatics skills. Familiarity with computer languages (R, Python, bash) and Linux environment is an advantage
- Experience in designing and carrying out experiments with insects in the field
- Excellent skills in speaking and writing in English
- Ability to work with bees (wild bees, bumblebees, and honey bees) in the laboratory and in the field
- Communication skills and social competence when working in a group
- Possession of a driving licence is an advantage

We offer:

- interesting and varied fields of activity with creative freedom at the largest employer in the region

- public service employment with remuneration according to the Tarifvertrag der Länder (TV-L) ('Collective Agreement for the Public Service') including an annual special payment and a company pension
- a secure job with attractive working conditions (home office, flexible working hours, and variable part-time models)
- 30 days of annual vacation plus additional days off on December 24 and 31
- a family-friendly, diversity-oriented, and intercultural work environment at a certified family-oriented university, including holiday childcare
- comprehensive staff development throughout all career stages with diverse training and qualification opportunities
- a health management framework to promote and maintain good health, as well as a broad university sports program
- the opportunity to participate in diverse social communities (e.g. university sports teams, university choir or university orchestra)
- exciting events such as the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften (Long Night of the Sciences), University Information Day, and the University Winter Ball
- reduced-price meals in the cafeterias of the Studentenwerk (Student Services) Halle

Applications from disabled persons, including those of equal status (as certified by the *Bundesagentur für Arbeit* / Federal Employment Agency), will be given preferential consideration if they are equally suitable and qualified. Women are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications from individuals of all nationalities are explicitly welcome. Applicants with a degree that was not obtained at a German university must submit a Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications from the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) (<https://www.kmk.org/zab/central-office-for-foreign-education>) as proof of equivalence upon conclusion of the employment contract. You can find ways to apply for a financial grant for this under: <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/pro/anerkanntszuschuss.php#>.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Antonella Soro, Tel.: 0345 55-26504, Email: antonella.soro@zoologie.uni-halle.de.

Please send your application, quoting registration number 5-12309/25-D, with the usual documents by January 31, 2026, to Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Dr. Antonella Soro, General Zoology, 06099 Halle (Saale) – preferably by email as a single PDF file to antonella.soro@zoologie.uni-halle.de.

This job posting is subject to potential budgetary restrictions.

Application costs will not be reimbursed by Martin Luther University. Application documents will only be returned if a sufficiently stamped envelope is enclosed. Electronic applications are welcome.