Freie Universität Berlin - Fachbereich Biologie, Chemie, Pharmazie - Institut für Biologie Neurogenetik - Emmy Noether Nachwuchsgruppe

Serotonin–Glia Interactions in Metabolic Control and Feeding Behaviour in Drosophila NeuroCure Cluster of Excellence, Berlin. We are seeking a motivated PhD candidate to join our research team at the NeuroCure Cluster of Excellence in Berlin. The project investigates how serotonin–glia interactions regulate metabolic homeostasis and feeding behaviour using Drosophila melanogaster. Research Field: In my research group, we investigate how the brain stores information as long-term memory. We use the fruit fly Drosophila melanogaster as a model organism, which allows us to analyze the neuronal and molecular mechanisms underlying memory formation with high precision. A particular focus of our work is the role of neuromodulation. We are especially interested in how neuromodulatory signals – such as serotonin – influence whether and under which conditions memories are stored long-term. In addition, we study how the physiological state of the organism and other behaviours, such as feeding or stress, modulate memory formation.

Wiss. Mitarbeiter*in (Praedoc) (m/w/d)

Research assistant (praedoc) (m/f/d) with 65%part-time job limited to 1 year salary grade (Entgeltgruppe) 13 TV-L FU reference code: wissenschaftliche*r Mitarbeiter*in (m/w/d)

City: Berlin; Starting date (earliest): At the earliest possible; Duration: befristet auf 1 Jahr; Remuneration: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L FU; Reference number: BC-wissenschaftliche*r Mitarbeiter*in (m/w/d); Closing date: 18/05/26

Tasks

Project:
Energy balance and feeding behaviour are controlled by neuromodulatory systems. Serotonin is a key regulator of metabolic state and behaviour, but its interactions with glial cells remain poorly understood. This project aims to uncover the cellular and molecular mechanisms linking serotonergic signalling and glial function in metabolic control. The position is limited to one year, as it is funded through time-limited project funding and linked to a defined research project.
The doctoral researcher will use genetic, behavioural, imaging, neurobiological, and computational approaches in Drosophila within a collaborative and interdisciplinary research environment.
The position is limited to one year, as it is financed by temporary third-party funds and is linked to a clearly defined research project.

Requirements

Requirements:
Completed university degree (M.Sc. or Diploma) in neuroscience, biology, molecular biology, bioinformatics, or a related field
Desirable:

- Experience working with Drosophila melanogaster
- Background in neurobiology
- Strong motivation for experimental research and data analysis
- Interest in interdisciplinary collaboration
- Excellent English and German communication skills
  Experience in genetics, imaging, behavioural analysis, molecular techniques, or computational/bioinformatic analysis is an advantage but not required.

Application

Applications should be sent by e-mail, together with significant documents, indicating the reference code, no later than May 18th, 2026 in PDF format (preferably as one document) to Prof. Dr. Lisa Scheunemann: lisa.scheunemann@fu-berlin.de or postal to

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With an electronic application, you acknowledge that FU Berlin saves and processes your data. FU Berlin cannot guarantee the security of your personal data if you send your application over an unencrypted connection.
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More information at https://stellenticket.de/203695/TUB/
Offer visible until 18/05/26