The Collaborative Research Centre Transregio 212 “A Novel Synthesis of Individualisation across Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution: Niche Choice, Niche Conformance, Niche Construction (NC3),” subproject A01 (Dr. Joe Hoffman), offers a full-time research position (postdoc position in fur seal genomics) starting as soon as possible.

(E13 TV-L, non-permanent position)

**Your Tasks**

In the sub-project A01 (Prof. Dr. Joe Hoffman) the postdoc will exploit and continue to build upon an exceptionally detailed long-term study of Antarctic fur seals (Arctocephalus gazella) at Bird Island, South Georgia. High quality genome and transcriptome assemblies have already been generated and microsatellite and high density SNP data will be available for ≥7000 marked individuals spanning a time series from the mid 1980’s to the current day. The aim of this project (sub-project A01 of the collaborative research centre) is to determine how fitness variation is shaped by interactions between individual genetic quality and the social environment within breeding colonies. Highly detailed observational and biometric time-series data will be collected from mother-offspring pairs in two neighbouring colonies of high and low social density. The mechanistic underpinnings of fitness variation will then be dissected apart using a novel combination of endocrinological and immunological profiling, high-density SNP genotyping, transcriptomics and genome-wide methylation profiling. This will generate unprecedentedly detailed insights into fitness variation in a wild vertebrate, with major implications for understanding ecological and evolutionary dynamics as well as adaptation to climate change.

**Full details of the SFB can be found at [http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/biologie/crc212/A01.html](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/biologie/crc212/A01.html).**

The main tasks will be the following:

- research tasks (30 %)

  - development and analysis of behavioural and life-history, endocrinological, immunological, genomic, transcriptomic and epigenetic datasets, including high density SNP data from a WGS SNP chip and whole-genome resequencing data
  - participation in fieldwork activities in the Antarctic (two field seasons lasting around 2 - 4 months)
  - collaboration with other research groups within the collaborative research centre
  - preparation and publication of scientific manuscripts for international journals

- organizational tasks in the research group and collaborative research centre (10 %)

**Your Profile**

We expect

- university degree in a relevant discipline (e. g. biology, genetics or bioinformatics)
- completed PhD in a relevant field, ideally related to population genetics, behavioural, evolutionary or conservation genomics
- deep understanding as well as extensive practical experience of working with high-throughput sequencing data (including RADseq, transcriptomic and whole-genome resequencing data)
- proficiency in writing custom scripts and working in the R environment
- experience of field-work with vertebrates and ideally large mammals
- high ability to work both independently and as part of a team
- very good oral and written communication skills in English

**Preferable qualifications**

- proven track record of publishing in international peer-reviewed journals
- experience of collaborations with or outside the host institution and between field biologists and bioinformaticians
- experience with large-scale, long-term research projects involving wild animal populations

**Remuneration**

Salary will be paid according to Remuneration level 13 of the Wage Agreement for Public Service in the Federal States (TV-L). As stipulated in § 2 (1) sentence 2 of the WissZeitVG (fixed-term employment), the contract will end on December 31, 2021. In accordance with the provisions of the WissZeitVG and the Agreement on Satisfactory Conditions of Employment, the length of contract may differ in individual cases. The employment is designed to encourage further academic qualification. In principle, these full-time positions may be changed into part-time positions, as long as this does not conflict with official needs.

Bielefeld University is particularly committed to equal opportunities and the career development of its employees. It offers attractive internal and external training and further training programmes. Employees have the opportunity to use a variety of health, counseling, and prevention programmes. Bielefeld University places great importance on a work-family balance for all its employees.

**Application Procedure**

To apply, please provide (i) a letter of motivation including a statement of your research interests and skills and experience relevant to the position, (ii) a CV including publication list, (iii) names and contact details of two referees willing to write confidential letters of recommendation. All materials should be sent as a single PDF file to [oliver.krueger@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:oliver.krueger@uni-bielefeld.de) or [joseph.hoffman@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:joseph.hoffman@uni-bielefeld.de) by the 1st of February 2018. Please mark your application with the identification code wiss17371. Please do not use application form and send only photocopies of original documents because all application materials will be destroyed at the end of the selection procedure.

Further information on Bielefeld University can be found on our homepage at www.uni-bielefeld.de.

**Bielefeld University**

Bielefeld University has received a number of awards for its achievements in the provision of equal opportunity and has been recognized as a family friendly university. The University welcomes applications from women. This is particularly true with regard to both academic and technical posts as well as positions in Information Technology and Trades and Craft. Applications are handled according to the provisions of the state equal opportunity statutes. Applications from suitably qualified handicapped and severely handicapped persons are explicitly encouraged.

**Postal Address**

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[www.uni-bielefeld.de](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de)