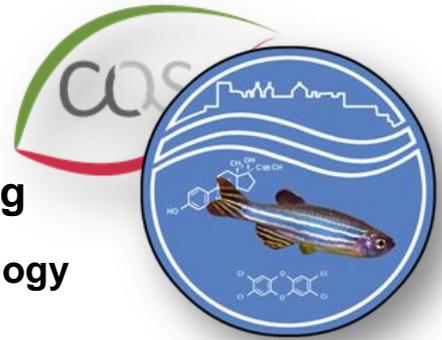




University of Heidelberg Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology



PhD position available

The Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology Group at the Center for Organismal Studies, Faculty of Biosciences at the University of Heidelberg, invites applications for a PhD position on

Thyroid hormonal regulation of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) eye development

The PhD thesis will be part of the collaborative research project ERGO funded by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 framework. The position is available from March 2019 and is limited to a duration of 3 years. The salary will follow the guidelines of the German Science Foundation (DFG; E13 TV-L 65 %).

The thesis will focus on the effects of thyroid disrupting chemicals (TDCs) on zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) development. The vertebrate thyroid system plays a central role in key physiological processes like growth, development and reproduction. One of the multiple developmental processes regulated by thyroid hormones is eye development, a key factor for survival under wildlife conditions. The thesis will elucidate specific effects of TDCs on eye development. A suite of molecular, physiological, and behavioral approaches will be applied, which will help to reveal how altered thyroid hormone levels affect morphology and function of the eyes of exposed fish. This holistic approach will have to integrate different disciplines of biological research, i.e. endocrinology (basic functions of thyroid hormones in fish), toxicology (interference of TDCs with the thyroid system), physiology (influence of TDCs on behavioral physiology) and developmental biology (identification of developmental phases most sensitive to TDCs and reversibility of adverse effects).

Applicants for the PhD position should hold a Master or Diploma (or equivalent) degree with a strong background in general and developmental biology, biomedicine or veterinary medicine, (eco)toxicology, cell biology or other related disciplines. Experience with (fish) *in vivo* experimentation, microscopy, and general molecular biological techniques as well as statistical analysis is welcome. The applicants should have distinctive skills in communication and collaboration as well as excellent skills in English and (preferably) German. We are looking for talented and creative PhD students with a strong passion for science and research. The PhD student is expected to be able to work autonomously, but will have direct supervision by an experienced postdoc, who will also work on the main EU project.

The University of Heidelberg aims to increase the quota of female employees in areas where women have been underrepresented so far. Applications by qualified women are therefore particularly welcome. In case of equal qualification, disabled persons will be preferred.

Applications should contain a motivation letter, a detailed CV, at least 2 references and other common/relevant documentation. Applications should be submitted in electronic form as a single PDF file until 1st January 2019, to:

Prof. Dr. Thomas Braunbeck (braunbeck@uni-hd.de)

Dr. Lisa Baumann (lisa.baumann@uni-heidelberg.de)