

The Vetmeduni teaches, undertakes research and offers services designed to guarantee the health of animals in Austria. We view our work as our contribution to ensuring human health and the health of our animal companions as well as to the production of healthy food. To help us meet these objectives,

our **Centre for Animal Nutrition and Welfare, Clinical Department for Farm Animals and Safety of Food Systems**, is looking for an

University Assistant (Pre-Doc) PhD-Student for the project “Sensor-based monitoring of brushing and drinking behavior in cattle”

Grade:	B1 Pre-Doc
Level of employment:	30 hours per week
Duration of contract:	3.5 years, from 01.04.2024
Deadline for applications:	29.02.2024
Reference number:	2024/0015

Place of employment: Campus Vienna, VetFarm Kremesberg

Responsibilities

Automated assessment of animal welfare indicators on dairy farms are needed to ensure that husbandry systems allow for a good life for animals and are aligned with societal values. This project will investigate individual-level variation in access to important but under-researched resources in dairy cow groups by 1) validating a practical monitoring method to routinely assess drinking behavior and brush use, 2) investigating variation and changes in these behaviors under different environmental conditions, 3) evaluating how social interactions in association with these resources influence individual variation in access.

This PhD position is organized in collaboration with the Precision Livestock Farming HUB (www.vetmeduni.ac.at/plf-hub) of the Vetmeduni Vienna and the student will be associated with the PLFDoc interdisciplinary doctoral training program (www.vetmeduni.ac.at/plf-doc). Hence, this project offers the opportunity to work in a truly interdisciplinary and collaborative working environment with leading research groups in precision livestock farming and welfare.

This position is for 3.5 years. The proposed starting date is 1st of April 2024. The work will be conducted in English and will require travel for experiments to dairy farms.

Tasks

The candidate will be involved in setting up monitoring equipment and collecting data at the university research farm and on commercial farms, behavioural analysis, learning about computer vision techniques, and writing publications, under supervision. Also it is asked from the successful candidate to enroll in the PhD-Curriculum as well as working on a PhD-Thesis. Furthermore, collaboration in academic teaching can be asked.

Necessary education, qualifications and knowledge on taking up employment

- completed studies in biology, zoology, degree in veterinary medicine or another relevant course of study (Diploma or Bachelor+Masters' degree within a frame of 300 ECTS)
- Experience in animal behaviour research
- Basic knowledge in computer programming (R, Python or similar)
- Good English knowledge (B2)

Desirable qualifications and skills

- Experience with farm animals
- Experience with on-farm sensor technology or computer vision
- Motivation to acquire project specific programming skills
- Demonstrated ability to conduct research relatively independently
- Interest in multi-disciplinary research approaches
- Evidence of initiative and persistence
- Publications
- Driver's license (Category B)

We offer

Vetmeduni consistently ranks in the top worldwide (Shanghai Ranking for Universities, Veterinary Sciences), and Vienna consistently ranks as one of the most liveable cities in the world with its green surroundings, rich culture and central location in Europe.

- Stable employer
- Attractive campus
- Opportunities for further training, both personal and in connection with your career
- Preventive and medical health care
- Diversity- and family-friendly culture
- Childcare facilities, both in term time and during holidays
- Many attractive fringe benefits
- Staff events

Minimum salary

The minimum salaries at universities are governed by a collective bargaining agreement. At the level given above, the minimum salary amounts from 01.02.2024 to EUR 3,578.80 gross per month, 14 times per year (based on full-time employment).

Applications

We shall be happy to receive your application in English, quoting **reference number 2024/0015**, by e-mail to bewerbungen@vetmeduni.ac.at. Please **do not forget to include the reference number**, or we shall not be able to assign your application to the correct position.

Please submit with your application:

- A cover letter addressing the selection criteria (necessary knowledge and qualifications, desired skills and abilities)
- Letter of motivation describing your research interests, experience, and goals
- Full CV
- List of two reference names
- Diploma/graduation certificate can be presented latest by taking up on employment

In accordance with § 41 of the 2002 Universities Act, the Vetmeduni is striving to increase the proportion of female staff members, particularly in leadership positions, and to achieve a balanced ratio of men and women on its staff, especially the scientific staff, and would thus welcome applications from qualified females. If women are underrepresented (below 50%), female candidates who are as well qualified as the most appropriate male candidates will be given preference, provided that there is no reason to prefer a particular male candidate.

There is no cost for applying for the position. However, candidates have no rights to reimbursement of any travel and accommodation costs that may arise in connection with their applications.

The Vetmeduni is proud to hold the certificate "hochschuleundfamilie" (university and family) and thus welcomes applications from people with families. We also welcome applications from persons with disabilities or chronic conditions.

Translations into other languages are solely for information purposes. The version advertised in the University Bulletin (Mitteilungsblatt) is the only one that is legally binding.

Further information

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www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/animal-welfare-science