

The University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna (Vetmeduni) works to safeguard the health of animals in Austria through its teaching and research activities and through the services it offers. These tasks represent our contribution to keeping people and their animal companions healthy and to ensuring the production of healthy food. To meet our objectives,

our **Centre of Biological Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences and Pathobiology** is looking for an

## University Assistant (Prae-Doc) PhD student in the project: “Mechanisms and regulators of cancer-associated fibroblasts”

<b>Grade:</b>	PhD Candidate
<b>Level of employment:</b>	30 hours weekly
<b>Length of employment:</b>	4 years
<b>Deadline for applications:</b>	31.1.2025
<b>Starting date:</b>	March 2025
<b>Reference number:</b>	2024/0241

### Description

At the Center for Biological Sciences at Vetmeduni, we are looking for an enthusiastic PhD student to develop a project in the field of intercellular crosstalk in intestinal tumor development. The project will explore the epithelium-fibroblast crosstalk using organoids, single cell RNA-sequencing and ATAC-sequencing, CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome engineering and high-resolution imaging. Our goal is to characterize alterations in tumor-adjacent fibroblasts upon epithelial transformation using a multidisciplinary approach.

The laboratory is embedded in the Department of Biological Sciences and Pathobiology. The research groups within the department examine a wide range of topics, including infection, immunity and cancer. Excellent, modern research and teaching facilities are available for this purpose. German language is not a requirement.

Relevant publications: [Manieri et al. Nature Communications 2023](#); [McCarthy et al. Cell Stem Cell 2020](#)

### Responsibilities

- Independent research activities as part of the PhD thesis
- Taking on research projects independently
- Carrying out scientific experiments in accordance with common practices, including keeping comprehensive records in English
- Participation in academic teaching in accordance with the collective agreement
- Participation in teaching, organizational and administrative tasks

### Required education, qualifications and experience

- Master's degree in a relevant subject, e.g. molecular or cellular biology... (Diploma or Bachelor+Master's degree within the framework of 300 ECTS)

- Profound laboratory experience in basic molecular biology and biochemistry (PCR, molecular cloning, etc.)
- Extensive experience with cell culture techniques (culture of adherent cell lines, primary cells, etc.)
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English (B2 or higher)

### **Additional desired qualifications and skills**

- Curiosity and motivation to pursue ambitious goals
- Experience with mouse work (handling mice, necropsy, small surgical procedures, etc.)
- Experience with confocal imaging
- Experience with computational data analysis in the life sciences
- Previous experience in cancer research
- Reliability, team spirit, proactive character and high level of communicational skills
- Open to inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary work in translational teams

### **What we offer**

- Top university: Vetmeduni is one of the leading academic education and research institutions in veterinary medicine in Europe
- Stable employer
- Attractive campus
- Personal and professional training and development opportunities
- Health care
- Diversity and family-friendly university culture
- Children's day-care and holiday care options
- Numerous attractive fringe benefits
- Employee events

### **Minimum salary**

The minimum salary for university staff is regulated by the Collective Bargaining Agreement for University Staff and according to the above classification is EUR 3,578.80 gross per month (on a full-time basis).

### **Applications**

Please submit your application in English, noting the **reference number 2024/0241**, by e-mail (preferred) to [bewerbungen@vetmeduni.ac.at](mailto:bewerbungen@vetmeduni.ac.at). Please do not forget to include the reference number or we will be unable to relate your application to the correct vacancy announcement.

Application documents must include:

- Contact information
- Letter of application with a brief description of research interest
- Curriculum vitae, including information on internship and other relevant activities

- Further documents to prove the required education, qualifications and experience described as necessary in the vacancy announcement (University transcripts and diplomas in their original language as well as in English)
- Names and contact information of two references

Vetmeduni aims to increase the proportion of female staff, particularly in senior positions, and in accordance with § 41 of the 2002 Universities Act is striving to attain a balanced ratio of women to men, especially among its academic staff. Applications from qualified women are therefore especially welcome. If women are underrepresented (below 50%), female applicants who are as qualified as the best qualified male applicant will be given preference, provided that there are no strong reasons for favouring a particular male candidate.

Applications are free of charge. Applicants are not entitled to compensation for accrued travel and accommodation costs incurred as a result of the admission procedure.

As a proud holder of the “hochschuleundfamilie” (“University and Family”) certificate, Vetmeduni welcomes applications from candidates with family responsibilities. We also encourage people with disabilities to apply.

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.

## **Contact for further information**

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