

At the Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), we strive to advance sustainable livestock farming in a globalized world. Our research focuses on enhancing resource efficiency while addressing both local and global environmental and climate impacts. We prioritize animal welfare, health, and the safety of food derived from livestock.

FBN is renowned for its innovative and multidisciplinary approach supported by a modern research infrastructure and international collaboration. Settled on a green, natural campus just a short drive from the vibrant coastal city of Rostock, FBN offers an inspiring setting for impactful research dedicated to a sustainable future in agriculture.

Start date

September 15th, 2025

Working hours

Part-time

Limitation

36 months

Remuneration

Pay group 13 TV-L (65 %)

Tender number

2025-23; 2025-24; 2025-25

The *Fish Genetics* working group has 3 vacancies as

Research Assistant / PhD positions (m/f/d)

(subject to a decision on funding)

What to expect:

In the EMFAF research project IQ-Wels-MV for the innovative breeding adaptation of the African catfish to recirculating aquaculture and the genetically based trait enrichment of positive performance characteristics, we are offering three positions for research and further qualification. In cooperation with the largest catfish farm in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (production approx. 400 tons/year), the technical requirements for setting up a pedigree-based breeding program are being created and large numbers of fish are being phenotyped manually.

The associated **position 1 (2025-23)** is **strongly practice-oriented** and is primarily based at the catfish farm.

Based on the data collected, **position 2 (2025-24)** involves developing **statistical genetic approaches** for practical breeding and validating them through simulation studies. These approaches are then tested at the catfish farm, further developed, and integrated into production. In addition, genome-wide DNA data is examined for associations with production and health traits and incorporated into practical guidelines for catfish breeding.

Position 3 (2025-25) develops **molecular genetic tools** that support breeding approaches, analyze and promote fish health and animal welfare in the recirculation system, and address evolutionary characteristics of the African catfish, such as lung respiration. Each of the three positions requires specific knowledge.

The aim is to complete your own cumulative PhD in positions 2 and 3; in position 1, this will be supported on request. Please apply to us according to your personal qualifications and interests.

What to bring:

- University degree (master's or diploma), preferably in aquaculture, agricultural sciences, bioinformatics, computer science, biology, or related life science fields
- Practical interest in improving the living conditions of fish in intensive farming
- Ability to work in a team and cooperate for the success of the project
- Interest in developing a breeding value prediction for fish
- Bioinformatic and mathematical knowledge; programming skills desirable
- Previous knowledge of quantitative genetics (breeding)
- Previous knowledge of molecular genetics (e.g., PCR, qRT-PCR, working with DNA, RNA)
- Experience in handling animals is an advantage
- Willingness to regularly visit the practice location and assist with sampling

- Willingness to publish scientific papers and present results
- Good knowledge of German and English
- Class B driver's license desirable

What we offer:

At FBN, you will be welcomed by a dedicated, multidisciplinary team. We will support you with a structured onboarding. We will also help you with any questions you may have regarding your arrival in the Rostock region. We also offer our employees

- an additional company pension (VBL),
- 30 days annual leave,
- flexible working hours and
- the possibility to work remotely.

The compatibility of work and family life is important to us at FBN, which is why we stand out for our certified family friendliness. Employees with children also find optimal working conditions thanks to our cooperation with the local kindergarten and parent-child rooms.

If you would like to become part of our team, we look forward to receiving your application. As equal opportunities and diversity are important components of our HR policy, we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

For further information, please contact:

Contact: Working Group Fish Genetic

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✉ rebl@fbn-dummerstorf.de, ☎ 038208 68721

✉ verleih@fbn-dummerstorf.de, ☎ 038208 68721

Contact: Working Group Statistics in Genomics

✉ wittenburg@fbn-dummerstorf.de, ☎ 038208 68930

Please send applications (single pdf-file preferred), including a motivation letter, detailed CV, copies of diplomas and certificates, and the contact information of references to:

personal@fbn-dummerstorf.de

Please quote the relevant job number in your application.

Finally, it should be noted that we are not allowed to reimburse application or travel expenses in connection with the application. By submitting your application, you consent to the processing of your personal data for the purpose of the application procedure.

For more information about the FBN, please visit us online:

www.fbn-dummerstorf.de.



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Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

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