The Max Planck Institute for Brain Research (MPI for Brain Research) in Frankfurt/Main is a vibrant research institution in the field of basic biological and medical research, with a focus on understanding the functions of the brain's circuits. Our institute has approx. 300 employees in three research departments and four research groups, as well as several service units.

**PhD student (m/f/d)**

A fully funded PhD position is available in the newly installed research group "Instinctive Behaviour Circuits", headed by Dr. Vanessa Stempel.

**About the lab**

Our goal is to identify canonical neuronal computations and plasticity mechanisms that impart flexibility to instinctive behaviours. To answer these questions, we use a state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary approach: we perform in vivo neural activity recordings and manipulation experiments in ethologically-relevant behavioural tasks in mice, and combine these with molecular, cellular and circuit-level analyses in vitro (for details see: instinctive-behaviour-circuits-group).

**Your profile**

We are looking for an enthusiastic and innovative student with a keen interest in neuroethological approaches to systems neuroscience and strong quantitative skills. You hold an excellent Master's degree (or equivalent) in Neuroscience or a related field (eg biology, physics, computer science, engineering, maths). A basic knowledge of neuroscience is preferable but not required. The successful candidate will have a track record of academic and research excellence and will be fluent in written and spoken English. Experience with any experimental and data analysis techniques relevant to our research program will be a plus.

**What we offer**

- A permanent position with outstanding employee benefits, a family-friendly culture, flexible working hours and funding according to TVöD regulations
- A highly interactive work atmosphere within an international and collaborative team
- Learn advanced experimental and data analysis techniques in neuroscience (such as in vivo calcium imaging, in vivo optogenetic manipulations, and patch clamp recordings)
- A state-of-the-art technical infrastructure (including imaging, scientific computing and electronics facilities, as well as a mechanical workshop)
- Opportunities for further training/continuing education
- Family service (in house baby and kids room, on-campus child day care centre)
The Max-Planck Society is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. Furthermore, the Max Planck Society seeks to increase the number of women and ethnic minorities in those fields where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages them to apply.

The compatibility of work and family is very important to us; we offer the possibility of childcare in the kindergarten Kairos close to our institute. Further information can be found on our homepage www.brain.mpg.de.

**How to apply**
We look forward to receiving your application as one PDF-document including a letter of motivation (one page: including research experiences and future career plans), CV, Master's degree certificate and transcript, Bachelor's degree certificate and transcript, and two letters of recommendation from recent academic supervisors.

This call will be open until the position is filled.

For further information, and to submit your application, please contact:
Dr. Vanessa Stempel (vanessa.stempel@brain.mpg.de).