

PhD assessing laying hen individuality and the relationships to health and welfare

Applicants are sought for a PhD candidate as part of a funded four-year research program based on observations of distinct movement and location patterns of individual hens in large groups <<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-29962-x>>. The project will consider a variety of developmental factors including early life stressors that lead to the described patterns as well as their relationship with the epigenome and social stability within and across animals. The candidate will be involved in all aspects of the project including: experimental design, project coordination, data analysis, and presentations at conferences and peer-reviewed journal articles. The project will be based at the Center for Proper Housing of Poultry and Rabbits within the Division of Animal Welfare at the University of Bern

<http://www.tierschutz.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/content/index_eng.html> with collaborators from Sweden and the United Kingdom. The salary will be based on regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation which also funded the project.

Characteristics that will be considered when reviewing applications include:

Required

- MSc degree (or equivalent) in relevant discipline (e.g., biology, animal science, veterinary science, or psychology)
- Demonstrated experience in research
- Good knowledge of spoken and written English

Highly valued

- Experience and interest in ethology, behavioural ecology, animal welfare (or project related experience)
- Knowledge of statistics including those appropriate for analysis of time series
- Experience in software programming and working with large datasets
- Active member of relevant societies, attendance of relevant conferences, letters of support
- Good knowledge of spoken and written German

To apply, please send a 1-2 page cover letter describing your background (particularly highlighting the characteristics given above) and interest in the position, a CV detailing your education and research experience, and contact information for at least two references. Applications will be accepted until October 31st, 2019 and interviews will be conducted in November either via teleconference or in person if possible. We hope for the student to formally begin the position in January or February 2020 though the specific date is negotiable.

Questions about the position should be directed to Dr. Michael Toscano (Michael.toscano@vetsuisse.unibe.ch) while application materials should be sent to Ms. Lilian Smith (lilian.smith@vetsuisse.unibe.ch).