

JULIUS-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT WÜRZBURG, GERMANY

Institute for Molecular Infection Biology (IMIB)

PhD Student position (f/m/d)

“Regulation of early spliceosome assembly and splice site recognition”

Applications are invited for a PhD student position in the Beusch group at the Institute of Molecular Infection Biology at the University of Würzburg. We are a young lab, aiming to build an international team of dynamic and collaborative scientists. We are committed to create an equal and inclusive work atmosphere and to solve fundamental questions surrounding the initial steps in RNA splicing regulation and spliceosome assembly.

Splicing is an essential step in post-transcriptional processing. Mutations that disrupt splicing have often deleterious consequences, causing a wide range of diseases from neuromuscular disorders to cancer. Our research group's goal is to gain a detailed mechanistic understanding of splicing and its regulation within the cell to not only understand fundamental eukaryotic biology but also human disease. To do so we take advantage of forward genetics in combination with biochemistry. In particular, we focus on understanding how splice site choice occurs and how this interplays with the assembly of the spliceosome. The spliceosome is a highly complex molecular machine, which will assemble *de novo* from over 150 proteins and 5 small nuclear RNAs for each reaction that it catalyses. What fascinates us is not only how this assembly is regulated but how the spliceosome can handle its very diverse substrate pool.

The student will work in an interdisciplinary project studying regulation within the first steps of spliceosome assembly by making use of a wide range of technologies including RNA-seq approaches as well as molecular biology methods (e.g. proximity labelling, IP-MS) and biochemistry.

Qualifications:

- A Master's degree in life science and a strong background in either RNA biology or biochemistry.
- Experience in molecular biology, tissue culture and cell line engineering, RNA-seq data analysis, and bioinformatics is helpful but not mandatory.
- Strong written and spoken English-language communication skills, and interest in working as part of an international team of researchers.
- An interest in RNA biology, or desire to learn.

We welcome applications from suitably qualified people from all sections of the community regardless of race, gender or disability. The University aims to increase the proportion of female employees, therefore applications from qualified women are particularly welcome. Preference will be given to people with disabilities in the case of otherwise equal aptitude. The position is available immediately on a part-time basis (65%) and is initially limited to one year, with the possibility of extension if progress is satisfactory. The salary will be based on the pay scale for the public sector in Germany (TV-L).

For informal inquiries, please feel free to contact Dr. Irene Beusch (irene.beusch@uni-wuerzburg.de).

Applying:

Please send your application preferably as a **single PDF file** (including a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae with research experience(s), and contact information for two academic references) **by March 08th, 2026** via email to irene.beusch@uni-wuerzburg.de (Subject: PhD position AG Beusch)

Selection will be based on the educational background, motivation, independence and creativity of the applicant.

Further information about Dr. Beusch can be found at: www.beuschlab.org

We are looking forward to your application!

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Please do not send any original documents to us; only send photocopies. As we need to save costs, we will not be able to return your documents to you. They will be shredded shortly after a hiring decision has been made. If you enclose a postage-paid return envelope, we will return your application documents to you three months after a hiring decision has been made.

