

Job Announcement

University of Fribourg, Department of Geosciences, Paleontology

PhD Position – Postnatal ontogeny of birds

Application deadline: April 1st 2018

Starting date: August 1st 2018

Duration: up to 4 years

Obligations: In addition to working on their thesis, the successful applicant will be asked to help support the department through teaching or other tasks.

Project description: Postnatal Ontogeny of Recent Birds

The announced PhD position is part of the SNF Ambizione project “The phylogenetic relationship of theropod dinosaurs and the role of heterochrony in the deep origin of birds,” granted to Dr. Christian Foth within the research lab of Prof. Walter Joyce. The goal of the project is to study and compare the postnatal osteological ontogeny of the primary avian lineages. The PhD student is expected to document morphological characters underlying ontogenetic variability, which will be conceptualized and compared with each other using qualitative morphological descriptions and quantitative analytical methods, including morphometrics and geometric morphometrics, univariate and multivariate statistics, and cladistics.

The University of Fribourg is a trilingual (French/German/English) university in a bilingual (French/German) town near the Swiss Alps and equally distant from the international airports of Geneva and Zurich. The department features a new micro/nano CT scanner and associated computer facilities that can be used as part of the research project. Current members of the lab have strong interests in vertebrate morphology, phylogenetic reconstruction, and morphometrics.

Requirements are:

- a masters degree (or equivalent) in biology, geology, or palaeontology
- experience in tetrapod anatomy and systematics
- expertise in statistics and cladistics
- fluency in written and spoken English (some knowledge of German or French is beneficial, but not essential)

Applications should include:

- short cover letter explaining your motivation to apply, your past research experience, and qualifications for the position (max. 2 pages)
- curriculum vitae including list of publications (including conference abstracts)
- informal copies of your university degrees (if available)
- the abstract of your diploma or master thesis and publications (if available)
- contact details, including E-mail, for three referees

Please send inquiries or your application (in a single PDF file) to Dr. Christian Foth (christian.foth@gmx.net).