

PhD position Behavioural Physiology (1.0 fte): Groningen, Netherlands

Within the Behavioural Physiology Group, the prospective PhD student will be part of the new research team of Dr Jocelien Olivier. This team investigates how environmental alterations during pregnancy can affect the offspring. The PhD student will conduct a research project on a rat model for depression, investigating molecular mechanisms and behavioural alterations that occur in the offspring due to maternal depression and/or antidepressant treatment during pregnancy. Ultimately, we aim to understand the effects of maternal depression, antidepressant treatment during pregnancy, and their combination on the offspring with respect to behaviour, gene expression patterns, and the epigenetic profile. The project involves extensive behavioural experimentation (emotional, social, sleep and cognition), physiology (telemetry) and molecular analysis (microarray, qPCR, genotyping, DNA methylation, hydromethylation, histone methylation).

Requirements

• a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Biomedical Sciences/Biology, preferably with a strong interest in neuroscience, animal behaviour, and molecular biology • experience with both behavioural observation and molecular genetics techniques • good communication and writing skills, also in English • other helpful competences include statistical proficiency (e.g. in the SPSS or R software environment) and a license to perform animal experiments (art. 9 Wet op de dierproeven (the Dutch Experiments on Animal Act)) or the willingness to obtain these.

Benefits

The University of Groningen offers a salary of € 2,083 gross per month in the first year up to a maximum to € 2,664 gross in the final year. The position requires residence in Groningen and must result in a PhD thesis within the 4-year contract period. A PhD training program is part of the agreement and the successful candidate will be enrolled in the Graduate School of Science. Objective of the temporary 4 years position is a number of research articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, together comprising the PhD thesis leading to the granting of the PhD degree (Dr) at the University of Groningen. After the first year will be an evaluation for feasibility of successful completion of the PhD thesis within the next 3 years.

Applications

You may **apply for this position before 16 January 2015** Dutch local time by means of the application form (click "Apply" below the advertisement on the university's website). Applications should include a curriculum vitae, a one-page statement of research interests, and contact details for two professional references. Acquisition is not appreciated.