

PhD "Trait-related optimization of hatchery technology to improve fitness and stocking efficiency in sturgeon"

Closing date: 12.04.2015

The Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (www.igb-berlin.de) is the largest research institute for freshwater research in Germany. It is member of the Leibniz Association and the Forschungsverbund Berlin e.V. IGB has close links to all three universities in the German capital and currently hosts about 50 doctoral students from approximately 15 different nations. Since 1996, the IGB has been committed to research on sturgeon remediation and restoration in the tributaries of the Baltics and the North Sea, including several national and international projects and programmes. Within the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Initial Training Network IMPRESS (Improved production strategies for endangered freshwater species, <http://www.impress-itn.eu>), the Research Group Applied Fish Physiology and Aquaculture led by Dr. Sven Würtz is looking for a hard-working, enthusiastic

PhD candidate

Trait-related optimization of hatchery technology to improve fitness and stocking efficiency in sturgeon

This is position 7 within IMPRESS, available from **01.06.2015** for **3 years**

IMPRESS aims at developing new technologies for improved production, management and conservation of threatened iconic diadromous fish species. IMPRESS is set up as intersectoral network of 15 ESR hosted by 9 different hosts covering molecular biology, physiology, and aquaculture technology, as well as human dimensions of biodiversity conservation. The PhD project will focus on assessing and improving fitness of hatchery-reared early life stages in the wild. Challenge tests will be carried out to characterize ecophysiological adaptations to fluctuating environmental challenges and improve aquaculture technologies in conservation aquaculture. During the 3-year project period the student will spend up to 6 months at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (host Ian Meyer) assessing impaired cognitive ability and behaviour in hatchery of sturgeon. Finally the student will carry out transcriptome analysis of

selected samples at the ZF Screens (Ron Dirks) in Leiden, Netherlands. This mobility will enhance multidisciplinary training of the student, and give him/her important experience of both academic and non-academic sectors (training school programme).

More details on the topic, the ITN network, the location, the team of supervisors and their groups, the expected mobility, salary and general eligibility criteria can be found in a long version of this job advertisement posted at www.igb-berlin.de/job-offers.html .

Applicants should have a 2.1 degree or equivalent in a relevant life science (biology, fisheries sciences, aquaculture and environmental sciences). Excellent communication skills in English are required. Experience with molecular techniques (e.g. qPCR, transcriptome analysis) and analytical chemistry (mass spectrometry, chromatography) is highly preferred. Candidates with a background in aquaculture (particularly larval rearing) will be deemed highly competitive.

According to EU regulations candidate students **must not have resided for more than 12 months during the previous 3 years in the prospective host country, Germany.**

Salary is paid according to the regulations of the programme. In keeping with the IGB's policy regarding gender equity, female applicants are particularly encouraged. Among candidates of equal aptitude and qualifications, a person with disabilities will be given preference.

Review of applications meeting the required standards will start immediately and continue until a candidate is appointed. Please send your application and further inquiries to **Dr. Sven Würtz** (wuertz@igb-berlin.de).

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