

Two 4-Year PhD Positions In Dolphin Behavioural Ecology and Genomics Available At The University Of Zurich

Overview: We are seeking two highly motivated PhD students for the Evolutionary Genetics Group of the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Zurich (www.michaelkruetzenlab.org). The group has broad interests in evolutionary genomics and behavioural ecology of delphinids and great apes. The work will be conducted together with our research collaborators at Shark Bay Dolphin Research (www.sharkbaydolphins.org).

The work will entail a combination of field work in Shark Bay, Australia, and genomic laboratory work at the University of Zurich. The positions are for four years, fixed term and will be remunerated according to UZH PhD salary scales, which include employer social security contributions. Start date for the PhD projects is to be May/June 2026.

Requirements: Successful candidates will have a Diploma/Masters degree in a relevant discipline, a strong interest (with prior experience) in preferably cetacean- or primate-focussed field work, bioinformatic skills, laboratory work, and evolutionary theory. The ideal candidates will have strong oral and written communication skills in English and the ability to work and share ideas in a collaborative environment. Knowledge of German language is not essential, but may help with everyday life whilst in Zurich.

The students will work in a dynamic research environment working on all aspects of evolutionary anthropology (www.iea.uzh.ch). Our department is well connected with numerous close collaborations within the Faculty of Life Sciences and many other international universities. The PhD positions will be embedded in the Zurich Life Science Graduate School's program in Evolutionary Biology (<http://www.lifescience-graduateschool.ch/>).

Applications: Interested students should send their application package to michael.kruetzen@iea.uzh.ch before 31 March 2026. The package must include, in one PDF file:

- 1) A cover letter expressing research interests and experience relevant to the position
- 2) A complete CV
- 3) Contact details of two academic referees

Please also attach copies of your official academic transcripts and degrees, as well as copies of any publications and Diploma/MSc theses.

Informal enquiries can be addressed to:

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