



PhD position on innovation in corvids

We invite applications for a **fully funded PhD position** starting on **October 1st, 2026**.

You will join our international research group and take over tasks like:

- Planning and execution of observational and experimental approaches, using a variety of non-invasive techniques
- Statistical analyses of multi-level data
- Publication of research results in international scientific journals

This position is part of the FWF Emerging Fields project “Comparative Ecological Innovation Styles” (CEIS) funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). We investigate how different body structures, ecological niches and cognitive abilities shape the emergence of novel behaviours. Focusing on corvids, the PhD project will combine behavioural experiments and cognitive testing to examine individual and species-level differences in innovation, problem-solving and behavioural flexibility. The successful candidate will be integrated into the group of Ass.-Prof. Barbara Klump at the Department of Behavioral and Cognitive Biology (<https://becogbio.univie.ac.at/>) and work in close collaboration with the other researches involved in the CEIS project. We expect you to actively participate in research activities, doctoral training, and dissemination of research results. The working language of the Department is English. The PhD candidate will be enrolled in the Vienna Doctoral School for Cognition, Behaviour and Neuroscience (COBENE, <https://vds-cobene.univie.ac.at/>).

What we offer:

Salary: According to the §48 VwGr. B1 Grundstufe (praedoc), currently approx. € 2832,10 gross/month, based on 30h/week, 14 times a year

Duration: 3 years (initially limited to 1.5 years and automatically extended to 3 years if the employer does not terminate within the first 12 months)

Your profile:

Must-haves:

- Above average completed Master’s degree (or equivalent) in Biology, Zoology, Psychology or a related discipline by the start date of the PhD position.
- Genuine interest in studying cognition and behaviour
- Previous experience in collecting and analysing behavioural data
- Willingness to commute to the Haidlhof Research Station in Bad Vöslau, Lower Austria.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Ability to work independently and as part of an international research team

Nice to have:

- Publications or familiarity with the publication process
- Experience in designing and conducting cognitive experiments, video analysis
- Basic skills in R (data handling, statistical analysis)
- Knowledge of German is an advantage but not required

To apply:

Please send to barbara.klump@univie.ac.at by July 24th 2026:

- Letter of motivation (max 2 pages) including a brief summary of your research interests
- Your scientific CV and names and email addresses of three references
- List of publications (if available)
- Degree certificates and transcripts detailing your grades

For further information about the project, please contact Dr. Barbara Klump:
barbara.klump@univie.ac.at.