

Job announcement no. 124/2025

The Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection Research (HIRI) is offering a position as

**Doctoral Researcher: “Remodeling of protein complexes during RNA phage infection”
(f/m/d)**

in the research group *Molecular Principles of RNA Phages* under the direction of Jun. Prof. Jens Hör.

The Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection Research (HIRI) is the first institution of its kind worldwide to combine ribonucleic acid (RNA) research with infection biology. Based on novel findings from our strong basic research program, our long-term goal is to develop innovative therapeutic approaches to better diagnose and treat human infections. HIRI is a site of the Braunschweig Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI) in cooperation with the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU) and is located on the Würzburg Medical Campus.

Phages are viruses that specifically infect bacteria. They are important sources of biotechnological tools and can further be used to combat bacterial infections, thus having the potential to help overcome the ongoing crisis of multidrug-resistant bacterial pathogens. Research in the Hör lab focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms of phages with RNA genomes during infection, host takeover, and anti-phage defense. Due to their comparably small genomes, RNA phages must co-opt bacterial host factors to successfully replicate. While some of these interactions have been identified, it remains elusive how infection by RNA phages remodels cellular protein complexes at the global level.

Responsibilities:

The doctoral student will employ global biochemical and high-throughput methods to study RNA phage-induced complexome remodeling and decipher the molecular mechanisms and consequences of this process.

Requirements:

- Master's degree/Diploma or equivalent in biology, biochemistry, microbiology, biotechnology, or a related field
- Prior experience in phage biology, molecular biology, microbiology, and/or biochemistry
- Highly motivated and independent and able to work as part of an international team
- Strong written and spoken English language communication skills

We offer you:

- An attractive and varied job in a future-oriented research institute
- A state-of-the-art infrastructure and the latest technologies
- Flexible working hours, part-time models as well as home office
- A corporate culture of appreciation and promotion of equal opportunities
- Extensive training and continuing education opportunities to develop professional knowledge and personal skills
- [DO IT- PhD initiative and](#) Welcome Office
- A family office to support family and career as well as childcare offers
- Interesting additional public service benefits
- Option of an additional employer subsidy for the job ticket

People with severe disabilities and equivalent professional qualifications who are suitable for the position are given preference. In order to protect your rights, we ask you to provide us with a clearly recognizable reference to the existence of a degree of severe disability in your cover letter or resume.

The HZI is actively committed to equality, diversity and integration. For this reason, the HZI pursues the goal of professional equality between women and men. The position is suitable for part-time work.

The position is held at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research GmbH (HZI) in Braunschweig. The place of employment is Würzburg.

Starting date:	February 1, 2026. The contract period is 3 years.
Salary:	E 13 TVöD Bund (65%)
Working time:	19.5 hours per week
Place of work:	Würzburg
Probation period:	6 months
Published:	16.10.2025
Closing date:	27.11.2025

For further information please contact Jun. Prof. Jens Hör, phone +49 931-31-80042, email: jens.hoer@helmholtz-hiri.de.

For more information about the HIRI look at www.helmholtz-hiri.de. More information at www.helmholtz-hiri.de.

How to apply:

When sending us your application documents, **please confirm** that you have read our privacy policy and that you agree to the processing of your personal data. Please use the text module in our [privacy policy](#) for this purpose. **Without these declarations we cannot consider or process your application** and will immediately delete any application documents already received after the application deadline.

Please include a cover letter, resume, (employment) references, certificates, and (if available) work samples or reference projects with your application materials. Please refrain from sending a photo.

Please send your complete application, quoting the **reference number 124/2025**, to the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research GmbH, Human Resources Department, Inhoffenstr. 7, 38124 Braunschweig, or by [e-mail](#). If you send your application in electronic form, please provide a **summary in one single (1) pdf document**.

We look forward to receiving your application!