



Vacancy Notice 249/2024

Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg (OVGU) is an internationally oriented and regionally networked university with a strong research profile.



The Faculty of Natural Sciences seeks to fill the following vacancy – subject to the allocation of funds – at the Institute of Biology:

Research Associate (PhD Student) (m/f/d) in Neuroscience

Salary scale:	Date commencing:	Fixed term (until):	Contract status:
13 TV-L	01.09.2024	31.12.2027	65 %

The Junior Research Group “*Cellular and Synaptic Mechanisms of Engram Formation*” at the Institute of Biology is looking for a highly skilled and motivated neuroscientist with a strong background in circuit and behavioural neuroscience in rodents. The position is supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Initial funding is until the end of 2027.

Our research group aims to understand the neurobiological basis of how memories form and how they are transformed into optimal behavioural action during recall. To answer this, we employ a wide range of techniques in the realms of in vivo two-photon calcium imaging and single-photon calcium imaging in freely moving mice, combined with optogenetic stimulation, circuit tracing, and engram labelling strategies.

The research project will build upon recent findings of our group demonstrating a direct pathway from the rodent hippocampus to the nucleus accumbens mediating spatial reward memories (Barnstedt et al., 2024, *Nature Communications*). In this project, we will investigate how hippocampal reward engrams form and how they are modulated by state-dependent release of neuromodulators. The ideal candidate is experienced in rodent stereotactic surgeries, behavioural experiments, immunohistochemistry, and microscopy. Experience with in vivo physiology and programming experience are beneficial. We expect a strong motivation to learn new techniques and the ability to independently plan, conduct and analyse experiments and to prepare the results for publication. The successful candidate will work in an interdisciplinary environment and an international and inclusive team. For more information, see also www.barnstedtlab.com. English proficiency is mandatory.

Requirements profile:

- You hold a Master’s degree in neuroscience or a related field
- You have experience with stereotactic surgeries, immunohistochemistry, and behavioural tasks in rodents
- Experience with the analysis of large-scale neurophysiological data using Python or Matlab is beneficial
- You are a team player and ready to learn, teach, and enjoy research together
- Excellent English language skills (C1 level)

Your benefits:

- You have the opportunity to pursue a PhD and are supported and promoted accordingly



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- You will have the opportunity to learn cutting-edge in vivo circuit neuroscience techniques to answer fundamental questions of memory processing in a supportive environment
- Our Research Funding and Graduate Academy support services help you with your personal development
- As an internationally oriented university with about one-third international students, we offer a diverse working environment
- You work in a young and dynamic international team with low hierarchies and strong mutual support

For further information about the position, please contact Dr. Oliver Barnstedt at:
[oliver.barnstedt\(at\)ovgu.de](mailto:oliver.barnstedt(at)ovgu.de).

You will benefit from our structures and offerings in the fields of sustainability, diversity, family support and staff development. Our location in the center of a thriving, lively and family-friendly state capital guarantees a high quality of life and a wide range of leisure activities. For more information, please visit www.ovgu.de/en/karriere. The Institute of Biology is located within 200 metres from the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology (LIN), the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), and the Institute for Anatomy, thus enabling thriving local collaborations.

Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg is a signatory of the German Diversity Charter. We welcome your application, regardless of gender, cultural and social background, age or sexual orientation. Applications from severely disabled people or people with an equivalent impairment will be given priority in the case of equal suitability, ability and professional expertise. Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg strongly promotes gender equality in all professional areas. Please note the information for storage of personal data: [https://www.ovgu.de/en /data_protection.html](https://www.ovgu.de/en/data_protection.html).

Please send your complete application (motivation letter, curriculum vitae, graduation certificates, references) by **July 31, 2024** using the online application portal:

<https://ovgu.b-ite.careers/en/jobposting/c895c2959661ea3115983856324cea3d146999850/apply>