

The University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna is active in teaching and research and provides services in connection with ensuring animal health in Austria. These tasks represent our contribution to maintaining the health of humans and their animal companions as well as to producing healthy food.

To meet our objectives, our Messerli Research Institute, Unit of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies is looking for a

University Assistant

Grade: B1 or Postdoc/B1
Level of employment: 20 hours
Length of employment: temporary maternity cover from October 2015
Deadline for applications: 24.07.2015

Responsibilities

- Independent teaching (in English) of courses in the field of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies within the Interdisciplinary Master in Human-Animal Interactions (IMHAI). The IMHAI is an international and interdisciplinary MA program.
Teaching comprises two courses:
 - 1) “Practical Course on Ethics and Human-Animal Studies” (in the winter term). In this course the students conduct an ethical research project addressing questions *which arise from the practical course they attend in Comparative Cognition*. An understanding of and interest in these cognition studies is paramount for the teacher. Teaching this course requires an introduction on how to write an ethical essay, how to structure a research project, citation style etc. But it also requires the discussion of very diverse topics (ranging from philosophy of science to animal cognition and welfare issues) and an intense individual supervision of students. The candidate teaching this course needs a sound understanding of academic debates in philosophy, animal cognition and animal ethics as well as animal welfare (from an ethical perspective). Experience with and/or knowledge about empirical studies in comparative cognition is of advantage.
 - 2) “Current Debates in Applied Animal Ethics” (in the summer term). In this course topics like zoo animals, animal experimentation, animal assisted therapy or meat consumption are discussed from an ethical perspective. The candidate will be able to conceptualize this course similar to the previous semesters but is also able to introduce her/his own research as long as it is linked to current debates in animal ethics.
- Supervision of IMHAI students writing their MA thesis in the field of theoretical and/or practical philosophy, including applied and interdisciplinary projects
- Research and publication, preferably in the field of animal cognition/animal ethics with a focus on morality in animals
- Support of the Head of the unit (Prof. Dr. Herwig Grimm) with regard to administrative tasks (e.g. organization of a lecture series)

Necessary knowledge and qualifications

- A degree (MSc or PhD) in at least one of the following disciplines: Philosophy with a specialization in Animal Ethics / Human-Animal Interactions with a strong profile in Animal Ethics
- The position requires a very good command of English language skills and basic understanding of German

Skills and Abilities

- The pre-doc/post-doc should aim for an academic career in the interdisciplinary field of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies and follow a research project that is in line with the objectives of the Messerli Research Institute.
- The ability to work independently and interdisciplinary in the field of Animal Ethics
- Skills and experience in interdisciplinary teaching and didactics are very welcome

Contact /Further Information

Prof. Herwig Grimm
T +43 1 25077-2650
herwig.grimm@vetmeduni.ac.at
www.vetmeduni.ac.at/messerli

The application should be in English. It should include a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, graduate transcript (copy okay for initial screening), and a writing sample (e.g. a selected chapter of the PhD or diploma thesis or a peer-reviewed paper).

Minimum salary

The minimum salary for university staff is regulated by the collective contract and at the level given above amounts to EUR 1.331,50 / EUR 1.773,-- gross per month. The minimum salary may be increased when previous employment and other salary components are taken into account.

Applications

Please submit applications quoting the **reference number 2015/0709** via e-mail (preferably) to bewerbungen@vetmeduni.ac.at or by post to the Personnel Department of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinärplatz 1, 1210 Vienna. Please do not forget to include the reference number or we shall be unable to relate your application to the correct vacancy announcement.

The Vetmeduni Vienna is attempting to increase the proportion of female staff, particularly in senior positions, and in accordance with § 41 of the 2002 Universities Act it is striving to attain a balanced representation of men and women, especially on its scientific staff. Applications from qualified women are thus particularly welcomed. If women are underrepresented (below 50%), female applicants who are as well qualified as the best qualified male applicants will be given preference, provided that there are no strong reasons for favouring a particular male candidate.

Applicants have no entitlement to reimbursement of any travel or accommodation costs they may incur as a result of the application procedure. Interviews via skype are a possibility.

The Vetmeduni Vienna is proud to have been awarded the certificate "*hochschuleundfamilie*" (career and family). We should thus be especially pleased to receive applications from people with families. Applications from persons with disabilities are similarly welcome.