



**The Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection Research (HIRI)  
Graduate Training Program “RNA & Infection”  
is offering several PhD positions**

The HIRI in Würzburg is a federally funded research institution whose mission is world-class science at the interface of RNA & infection biology. We perform basic research into the role RNA plays in pathogens and infected hosts. Our ultimate goal is to leverage the vast potential of RNA as a diagnostic, target, and drug to combat infectious diseases, such as those caused by SARS-CoV-2 or multidrug-resistant bacteria. Examples include developing of new single-cell technologies as well as RNA-seq and CRISPR -based methodologies to visualize and interrogate infection processes.

The HIRI Graduate Training Program “RNA & Infection” was launched in 2018 and is dedicated to training the next generation of scientists to become experts in both RNA biology and infectious diseases. The program is **highly unique** by offering fully-funded positions independent of any group or project. Building on this independence, PhD students participate in **lab rotations** in three HIRI groups of their choice and then **select their advisor and thesis project**. Students also receive **structured mentoring and training** throughout their PhD, including short intensive courses in RNA and infection biology, annual scientific retreats, and opportunities to present at international conferences.

For further information about the program and the HIRI, please visit: [www.helmholtz-hiri.de](http://www.helmholtz-hiri.de)

**Competitive applicants will exhibit the following:**

- Academic degree (MSc or equivalent) in molecular biology, microbiology, biochemistry, cell biology, bioinformatics, bioengineering, biotechnology, or a related field
- Strong academic and scientific track record
- Dedication to work at the interface of RNA and infection biology
- Good English communication and presentation skills (written and spoken)
- Ability to work with people from different backgrounds and cultures
- Highly self-motivated and enthusiastic
- Strong leadership potential

**Terms:**

Starting date: Early- mid 2021 - Initial term of 1 year with a 2-year extension commensurate with reasonable progress  
Salary: A competitive studentship that covers living expenses (there are no tuition fees in Germany)  
Workplace: HIRI (Würzburg, Germany)  
Closing date: January 16, 2022  
Interviews: Interviews with short-listed candidates will be carried out in early February.

If you want to become a part of the HIRI Graduate Training Program “RNA & Infection” you can **apply online now** at <https://hzi.opencampus.net>.

The HZI Graduate School as well as the HIRI Graduate Program support gender balance. Women are explicitly encouraged to apply. With equal professional qualification, disabled applicants will be prioritized.

For further information on the program, please contact Dr. Tim Schnyder at [tim.schnyder@helmholtz-hiri.de](mailto:tim.schnyder@helmholtz-hiri.de). In case of any problems with the online application system, please contact the Graduate School at [HZIGrad.School@helmholtz-hzi.de](mailto:HZIGrad.School@helmholtz-hzi.de).