



PhD position in vertebrate palaeontology:

Evolution of Late Devonian bony fishes in the macroecological context

The research of the group of Prof. Dr. Christian Klug focuses on the investigation of “The Devonian nekton radiation in a time of biodiversity crises”. Jawed fishes of the Moroccan Devonian are the study objects, and we aim at testing hypotheses on their ecological roles and evolution. The position is a full-time PhD one, formally designated as a training job based on the officially assigned salary class (up to 4 years).

Your responsibilities

Your research will root in fossil materials already available in Zurich, complimented by materials that might be discovered during field campaigns that are part of this project. The main focus is bony fish, mainly sarcopterygians and a few actinopterygians. Fossils will be examined using CT, stable isotope analyses and other state-of-the-art methods. The obtained morphological data will be used to address palaeobiological and phylogenetic questions (e.g., dietary reconstructions; Bayesian phylogenetics). Additionally, isotopic and alpha diversity data will be used to analyze the ecology of these fishes in the context of the Late Devonian diversity crises. Teaching is part of the tasks.

Your profile

Applicants should have a Master's Degree in palaeontology, biology or geology. Sufficient background knowledge in palaeontology is essential. Experience with either 3-D imaging, Bayesian analyses, isotope analyses, trophic web analyses are more than welcomed, but not a prerequisite (the willingness to learn some of these methods is expected). Applicants must have excellent oral and written communication skills in English, and also the soft skills to be a good team player and foster the collaborative and collegial environment in our Lab and in the entire department. You must enjoy working in a scientific environment, mastering challenges in the field and in the lab, and be open to find and investigate the unexpected.

What we offer

We offer varied and interesting work in an inspiring international environment with access to state-of-the-art scientific infrastructure. Diversity and inclusion are important to us.

All PhD students of the Department are part of the Graduate School of Life Sciences Zurich (<https://www.lifescience-graduateschool.uzh.ch/en.html>), which thrives to interlink its members and fosters interactions and exchange. It also offers a variety of courses, excursions, travel awards and financial support for visiting conferences and courses.

Place of work

University of Zurich, Department of Palaeontology, Karl-Schmid-Strasse 4, 8006 Zürich, Switzerland

Start of employment

September 1st 2023 or by agreement.

Please send your application materials including short motivation letter, CV, transcripts of records and the names and contact details of three referees in a **single PDF file to:**

chklug@pim.uzh.ch

Deadline for Application: June 15th 2023 or until the position is filled.