



The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is the national institute which prepares expert reports and opinions on questions of food, feed and chemical safety and consumer health protection in Germany on the basis of internationally recognised scientific assessment criteria. It advises the Federal Government and other institutions and interest groups in these areas. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks. It is an institution with legal capacity within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

In the department of Chemical and Product Safety in the Dermatotoxicology Study Centre in cooperation with the unit Unit Effect-based Analytics and Toxicogenomics of the BfR is the following three year position immediately available:

Doctoral candidate (f/m/d)

Reference number: 3299 | Salary group 13 TVöD | place of employment: Berlin | Application deadline: 15.06.2023

The position is part-time (65% of regular working hours, currently 25,35 h/week).

The employment should be used to prepare a doctoral thesis. Participation in the BfR doctoral support program is mandatory to benefit from scientific exchange.

Topic: Insects are promising novel foods. However, several insect proteins are very similar to known allergens from house dust mites and crustaceans, which translates into a risk for cross-allergies. While antibody-mediated responses are relatively widely studied, little is known about the underlying T cell responses. In this doctoral thesis, the frequencies and cross-reactivities of allergen-specific T cells are to be investigated using a combination of modern short-term T cell assays and high-throughput sequencing of T cell receptors. The obtained results should not only contribute to a better understanding of the immunological mechanisms of food and cross-allergies, but also provide new impulses for the development of diagnostic and regulatory tests.

Tasks:

- Perform T cell assays with different preparations of insect allergens (lysates, single proteins, peptides). Within clinical cooperation, blood and/or tissue samples from allergic and non-allergic individuals will be examined
- Application and, if needed, further development of state-of-the-art methods such as cell culture, molecular biology, high-throughput sequencing, flow cytometry, automated data analysis
- Preparation of scientific reports, presentations, publications and conference contributions
- Help with supervising students (internships, bachelor's and master's students)

Requirements:

- University degree (master's degree, diploma or a comparable university degree) in biology, nutritional science, biotechnology, biochemistry, human medicine, toxicology, pharmacology or another related subject
- Experience with and/or knowledge of the techniques and topics relevant to the project is desirable but not a requirement
- Scientific publications, e.g. poster presentations and/or international experience are considered an advantage
- Very good spoken and written knowledge of English and good spoken and written knowledge of German
- A conscientious work ethic, flexibility, ability to work in a team and resilience as well as the willingness to travel on business are required

What we offer:

- A varied range of responsibilities in a growing departmental research institution
- 30 days' annual leave (based on a 5-day week) as well as days off on 12/24 and 12/31
- Job ticket
- Mobile working opportunities
- Excellent links to the public transport network
- Wide range of further training opportunities
- Travel pass monthly employer contribution
- VBL occupational pension
- Capital-forming benefits
- AWO-Familienservice/Family Service

Application process:

The interviews are expected to take place on June 30, 2023.

Does this position appeal to you? Then please apply by **June 15, 2023** via our online system:

[Apply online](#)

Please address any questions in connection with the application process to: bewerbung@bfr.bund.de

– **Please do not send any applications to this email address** –

If you are not able to apply online, please send your application by post quoting the respective reference number.

[Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung, Personalreferat - 11.17 -/ Max-Dohrn-Str. 8-10, 10589 Berlin](#)

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The BfR welcomes applications from people of all nationalities. The BfR is an innovative scientific institute offering family-friendly working conditions, for which it was awarded the "audit berufundfamilie®" (work and family) certificate. The BfR guarantees equal career opportunities for women and men. In the case of equal suitability, severely disabled applicants will be given preferential consideration and are only required to have a minimum level of physical suitability.