

29 January 2024

PhD position in Primate Cognition

We are looking for a doctoral student to carry out research on how non-human primates perceive, represent and communicate reality with the larger goal of testing whether human cognition is qualitatively different from other primates.

To this end, the successful candidate will design field experiments and collect observational data from sooty mangabeys, a species that lives in large multi-male, multi-female groups and forages terrestrially near our research station in Tai National Park, Ivory Coast. The overall aim is to advance theories of cognitive evolution, including the origins of human language.

The position will in collaboration with the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) Evolving Language www.evolvinglanguage.ch, a Swiss consortium with the ambitious goal of creating a new discipline, Evolutionary Language Science, that targets the past and future of language. The consortium consists of leading scientists from traditionally separated academic domains, which allows us to harvest the diverse expertise from the humanities, social sciences, computational sciences, natural sciences and medicine towards a broadscale interdisciplinary collaboration.

The successful candidate is expected to

- Design and implement field studies relevant to the above topic
- Collect data in the Tai National Park for a period of 24 months
- Carry out administrative duties for the Tai Monkey Project
- Provide teaching assistance at the University of Neuchatel

The ideal candidate will have

- Master degree (required)
- Strong interest in animal cognition
- Training in statistics and data processing
- Fluency in English (oral, written) and basic French (oral)
- Field experience

The position is available from **1 April 2024** (negotiable) for a maximum duration of **4 years**. Salary is according to the pay scale of the University of Neuchatel. The position is available until filled; we will start reviewing applications from 15 February 2024.

To apply, please compile the following documents into a single PDF labelled 'YourSurname.pdf' and send it to Klaus Zuberbühler, klaus.zuberbuehler@unine.ch

- FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES - Cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Institut de biologie - Contact details of two referees

Secrétariat
Rue Emile-Argand 11
CH-2000Neuchâtel
Tél : +41 (0)32 718 30 00
Fax : +41 (0)32 718 30 01
secretariat.biologie@unine.ch

We take gender balance and diversity seriously in hiring decisions.