# University of Heidelberg

## Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology

**PhD position available**

The Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology Group at the Center for Organismal Studies, Faculty of Biosciences at the University of Heidelberg, invites applications for a PhD position (f/m/d) on

**Adverse effects of micro- and nanoplastic particles and associated trace contaminants**

The PhD thesis will be part of the collaborative research project RESPONSE (Toward a risk-based assessment of microplastic pollution in marine ecosystems) funded by the German Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BMBF) within the Joint Project Initiative JPI Oceans (https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/). The position is available from September 2021 and is limited to a duration of 3 years. The salary will follow the guidelines of the German Science Foundation (DFG; E13 TV-L 65 %).

The thesis will focus on the toxicological characterization of the effects of very small micro- and nanoplastic particles and selected model contaminants adsorbed to these particles in planktonic organisms and fish (zebrafish; *Danio rerio*). Teratogenicity testing will be complemented by genotoxicity, neurotoxicity and behavioral assays as well as studies into the induction of biotransformation enzymes. The spectrum of methods will cover not only classical fish and fish embryo toxicity testing, but also standard molecular biological and advanced optical techniques (e.g. confocal laser scanning microscopy). The purpose of the collaborative study is a comprehensive assessment of the toxicological and ecological relevance of very small micro- and nanoplastic particles and their role as vectors for anthropogenic trace substances.

Applicants for the PhD position should hold a Master or Diploma (or an equivalent) degree with a strong background in general and developmental biology, biomedicine, (eco)toxicology, cell biology or a related discipline. Experience with both *in vivo* and *in vitro* experimentation, general molecular biological techniques as well as statistical analysis is welcome. The applicants should have distinctive skills in communication and collaboration as well as excellent skills in English and (preferably) German. We are looking for talented and creative doctoral students with a strong passion for science and research. For more information on the project and the requirements please contact Prof. Dr. Thomas Braunbeck (email below).

Applications should contain a motivation letter, a detailed CV, at least 2 references and other common/relevant documentation. Applications should be submitted in electronic form as a single PDF file until at latest 1st October 2021 to Prof. Dr. Thomas Braunbeck (braunbeck@uni-hd.de; Ecology and Toxicology Group, Center for Organismal Studies, Im Neuenheimer Feld 504, D-69120 Heidelberg). We ask for your understanding that application documents received will not be returned.

Heidelberg University stands for equal opportunities and diversity. Qualified female candidates are especially invited to apply. Disabled persons will be given preference if they are equally qualified.

Information on job advertisements and collection of personal data is available at www.uni-heidelberg.de/en/job-market.