

Information for Applicants  
for the

**University Professorship (Salary Grade W2)  
for Eukaryotic Microbiology**

in the Faculty of Biology

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## I. ABOUT DUISBURG-ESSEN UNIVERSITY

### **OPEN MINDED**

AS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST UNIVERSITIES IN GERMANY  
WE THINK IN TERMS OF POSSIBILITIES INSTEAD OF LIMITS.

LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THE RUHR METROPOLIS,  
OUR ELEVEN FACULTIES DEVELOP IDEAS WITH A FUTURE.  
OUR STRENGTHS LIE IN BOTH RESEARCH AND TEACHING,  
WE EMBRACE DIVERSITY, FOSTER POTENTIAL, AND NUR-  
TURE A COMMITMENT TO GENUINE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY.

The University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) - one of Germany's fastest-growing large universities - has its home in the heart of the Ruhr metropolitan region. Its broad spectrum of research and teaching subjects ranges from the humanities, social sciences and education to economics, engineering, natural sciences and medicine. With nearly 43,000 students from over 130 nations, UDE's high quality standards, cutting edge teaching and learning concepts in more than 267 degree programs - 127 of which are teacher training programs - make it an ideal destination for research-based teaching.

Since its founding in 2003, UDE has developed into an internationally recognized research university. Our broad interdisciplinary research spectrum spanning the nano sciences, biomedical sciences, urban systems, transformation of contemporary societies, and water research helped propel UDE to 18th place in the Times Higher Education Magazine's ranking of the world's top 150 young universities less than 50 years old. Another key field of research encompasses lifelong education and socialization processes. UDE furnishes a national model for Germany in how to implement educational equity at a university.

By supporting high-potential young scientists with numerous initiatives and projects, UDE has become a vibrant, diverse, and open institution where students, researchers and staff can develop their potential and skills in optimum fashion. UDE forms part of a strategic academic triad with the Ruhr-University Bochum and the Technical University of Dortmund, a research and teaching partnership under the umbrella of the Ruhr University Alliance (UA Ruhr). Each of the three universities each also maintain their own branches on three continents. In addition, UDE collaborates with over 100 universities around the world. For more information, see <https://www.uni-due.de/en/overview.php>



## II. THE FACULTY OF BIOLOGY

The Faculty of Biology (<https://www.uni-due.de/biology/>) is located on the Essen campus and currently comprises 23 research groups, each falling into one of the three main research areas: Water and Environmental Sciences, Medical Biology, and Empirical Teaching and Learning Research.

The Faculty's research groups are closely connected to various UDE research centers and they collaborate intensely with the Faculty of Chemistry, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, and various non-university research institutes. This strategically unique placement allows its researchers to address a wide range of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary topics. Both in research and teaching the members of the Faculty of Biology seek to represent biology at all system levels: from biomolecules and cells to tissue, organisms, and entire ecosystems. The research groups associated with the main research areas cooperate extensively with three relevant central research institutes: the Centre for Water and Environmental Research (ZWU), the Center for Medical Biotechnology (ZMB) and the Interdisciplinary Center for Educational Research (IZfB). Closely networked in the central research institutes and with adjacent faculties, the Faculty of Biology is a significant driver in two of the university's five profile focal points ([https://www.uni-due.de/en/research\\_profile](https://www.uni-due.de/en/research_profile)). The systematic research focus on water and environmental research and medical molecular biology has in recent years rewarded the faculty with high third-party funding including the lead in two Coordinated Collaborative Research Centers (CRCs), funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG): CRC 1493 (Multilevel response to stresser increase and release in stream ecosystems, RESIST; [https://www.uni-due.de/aquatic\\_ecology/research/sfb\\_resist](https://www.uni-due.de/aquatic_ecology/research/sfb_resist)) and CRC 1430: Molecular Mechanisms of Cell State Transition (<https://www.uni-due.de/zmb/dfg-projects>).

The three main research areas are reflected in teaching the following degree programs in which the faculty plays a leading role:

- Aquatic Biology B.Sc. and M.Sc. (first enrollment in winter term 2022/2023)
- Biology B.Sc. and M.Sc. (last enrollment in winter term 2021/2022)
- Biodiversity M.Sc. (joint degree program with Ruhr-University Bochum)
- Environmental Toxicology M.Sc. (with the Faculty of Chemistry)
- Medical Biology B.Sc. and M.Sc. (with the Faculty of Medicine)
- Molecular Biology B.Sc. and M.Sc. (first enrollment in winter term 2022/2023)
- Transnational Ecosystem-based Water Management M.Sc. (double degree program with Radboud University Nijmegen, NL)
- Biology for teaching at high schools and comprehensive schools B.A./B.Sc. and M. Ed.
- Biology for teaching at secondary and comprehensive schools B.A./B.Sc. and M.Ed.
- Biology for teaching at vocational colleges B.A./B.Sc. and M. Ed.

## III. RESEARCH FOCUS: WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

The Professorship for Eukaryotic Microbiology will be part of the research focus Water and Environmental Research. UDE's Centre for Water and Environmental Research (ZWU (<https://www.uni-due.de/zwu/start>)) integrates water research across faculties, making it one of the university's five research priority areas. The ZWU aims to advance environmental research with a particular emphasis on understanding impacts of global societal and environmental change and their mutual feedbacks. Consequently, the research is primarily interdisciplinary, ranging from the natural and engineering sciences to medicine and economics

to the social and societal sciences. The range of expertise in the ZWU is, consequently, extremely broad ranging from aquatic ecology, drinking water treatment and distribution (contamination, assessment, remediation), environmental toxicology and chemistry over water and urban water management, hydrology, hydraulic engineering to water governance with its economic and legal components. As a central and well-staffed institute, the ZWU currently connects 210 members from six UDE faculties and neighboring institutions.

The research focus on water and environmental research offers researchers and students a stimulating and excellent research and work conditions with internationally renowned scientists and laboratories equipped to the latest scientific and technical standards. The following research groups are active in the main profile area of water research in the Faculty of Biology: Aquatic Ecology (two professorships), Aquatic Ecosystem Research, Applied Botany, Biodiversity, Bioinformatics and Phycology. Additionally, several research groups of the Faculty of Chemistry (Biofilm Center, Analytical Chemistry and Environmental Chemistry) and other faculties are located near the Essen campus.

#### IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITION "University Professor (W2) of Eukaryotic Microbiology"

Applicants should bring an international reputation for excellent and independent research in the field of eukaryotic microbiology in aquatic ecosystems (including freshwaters). They are expected to represent the discipline in research and teaching and to be experienced users of modern morphological and molecular methods for the analysis of biodiversity, ecology, and evolution of protists, e.g. the Apicomplexa.

Publications in peer-reviewed journals and experience in obtaining external funding are a prerequisite, as are teaching skills. Involvement in committees and associations in the fields of protistology or microbiology will be considered a plus.

Candidates will be evaluated on how much they strengthen the aquatic biodiversity and ecology focus of the ZWU and the Faculty of Biology. Participation in local research networks is desired. The successful candidate must be capable of sustaining a competitive, externally funded research program.

In teaching, participation in botanical and microbiological classes in the faculty's degree programs will be required. Lectures must be given in German and in English. Applicants whose native language is not German will be expected to teach courses in German no later than two years after taking up their duties. The position holder will be asked to assist in the organization of study programs, student counseling, and academic self-administration. The teaching load will be nine semester hours. Participation in the organization of study programs, student guidance, and academic self-administration is expected.

According to §36 of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act, other prerequisites for employment include a completed university degree, an outstanding doctorate in natural sciences, international recognition and visibility in the research field, teaching aptitude, and habilitation or achievements similar to habilitation in the subject area. For further information on the legal framework, please see Section VI (below).

#### V. FACILITIES

The position holder will move into newly furnished laboratory and office space and will receive appropriate first equipment based on the research group profile. In addition to his/her own office, the new professor will be provided with office space adequate to the number of scientific and non-scientific staff available at the time. The holder of the position will receive a share of the operating funds available to the department in accordance with the faculty's normal distribution formula.

## VI. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia's Higher Education Act (Hochschulgesetz - HG) of October 31, 2006, fundamentally restructured the university system as of January 1, 2007.

Since then, the universities have been public corporations with legal standing, funded by the state. State funding is based on their mission, the agreed objectives and the academic services provided. Their budget is global and they are not subject to any directives from the Ministry of Innovation, Science, Research and Technology of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

### Employment status of Faculty in higher education institutions

Provided that the legal requirements are met, university professors are generally employed for life as civil servants. Professors may also be employed under civil contract law.

Further information (laws, ordinances, etc.) on this topic can be found at [http://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/organisation/peo\\_professoren.php](http://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/organisation/peo_professoren.php) (only available in German).

## VII. SALARY

The salaries of university professors are regulated by Salary Scale W comprising the grades W 1, W 2 and W 3.

Base salaries are age-independent and may be increased by allowances (performance bonuses) in the case of W 2 and W 3. These performance-related salary components can be awarded

- in connection with appointment and retention negotiations (appointment and retention performance pay),
- for special achievements in research, teaching, the arts, continuing education and the development of young academics (special performance-related remuneration), and
- for the performance of functions or special tasks within the framework of the university's self-administration or management (functional performance remuneration).

So-called research and teaching allowances under specific circumstances may also be paid from funds provided by private third parties.

Temporary merit pay is linked to target and performance agreements concluded as part of appointment and retention negotiations.

In the context of appointment negotiations, appointment performance pay is negotiated individually with the Rector of the University of Duisburg-Essen.

The current salary tables (North Rhine-Westphalia) for grades W1, W2 and W3 can be found at <http://www.lbv.nrw.de/beztab/beso.php>.

Information and the legal basis for the W Salary Scale (NRW) can be found on the Internet at the following address:

[https://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/organisation/peo\\_links.php](https://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/organisation/peo_links.php)

<https://www.hochschulverband.de/w-besoldung>