

We are one of the youngest universities in Germany and think in terms of possibilities, not limitations. In the heart of the Ruhr region, we develop ideas of the future at our 11 faculties. We are strong in research and teaching, live diversity, support potential and are highly committed to an educational equality that has earned this name.

The **University Duisburg-Essen (Campus Essen)**, offers a position with working place at the Faculty of Biology, **Mechanistic Cell Biology** as:

PhD-student

(Doktorandenstelle, f/m/d), (part-time 50%, salary equivalent TV-L 13)

in the group of **Doris Hellerschmied**

Description of the position

Cells rely on protein homeostasis mechanisms to survive under stress. Consequences of defective protein homeostasis range from the formation of toxic protein aggregates to cell death in neurodegenerative diseases. Research in the Hellerschmied group integrates **chemical biology, biochemistry and cell biology** to identify the fundamental molecular mechanisms of **protein quality control and stress response in the Golgi apparatus**. Our most recent work revealed that unfolded proteins are exported from the Golgi and associate with specific protein chaperones.

Based on these results, this PhD project aims at identifying the molecular interactions between chaperones and their substrates, and to further manipulate these interactions with chemical probes. The project comprises reconstituting protein quality control processes *in vitro*, studying chaperone-substrate complexes, and establishing assays for the characterization of chemical probes. Together with complementary projects in the group, these efforts will allow us to identify and engage essential cellular processes that support protein homeostasis under normal conditions and in disease.

Your profile

- master degree or diploma in Biology, Medical Biology, Biochemistry or a related field
- strong interest in *in vitro* biochemistry and chemical biology
- practical experience in biochemistry and molecular biology techniques, hands-on experience in protein expression, purification and establishing biochemical assays is a big plus
- excellent communication and presentation skills
- ability to work in a collaborative team

We offer

The successful candidate will be part of our new and highly interactive research group established on a Kovaleveskaja Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Our group is part of the Center of Medical Biotechnology ZMB (<https://www.uni-due.de/zmb/>), which provides an international and interdisciplinary research environment with access to excellent facilities. The position will be associated with the SFB1093 "Supramolecular Chemistry on Proteins" (<https://www.uni-due.de/crc1093/>), supporting a structured PhD training program.

Start of position: as soon as possible

Contract period: 3 years with the possibility of extension

Working time: 50 percent

Application deadline: October 24, 2019

The University Duisburg-Essen aims at promoting the diversity of its members (s. <http://www.uni-due.de/diversity>).

The University Duisburg-Essen has been awarded for its effort to promote gender equality with the "Total-E-Quality-Award". It aims at increasing the share of women in the scientific personnel and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. Women will be preferentially considered when equally qualified according to the state equality law.

Applications from disabled or equivalents according to § 2 (3) SGB IX are encouraged.

Applications (including a letter of motivation and a CV with contact information of two references) and inquiries with reference code **602-19** should be addressed by e-mail to: Dr. Doris Hellerschmied, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Mechanistische Zellbiologie, 45117 Essen, Phone 0201 183-3120, E-Mail Doris.Hellerschmied@uni-due.de

You can find information about the Faculty and the contracting authority under:

<https://www.uni-due.de/zmb/mechanistic-cell-biology/index.php>

<https://www.uni-due.de/zmb/>

<https://www.uni-due.de/crc1093/>

www.uni-due.de

