

## PhD position in Environmental Conditions, Clock and Sleep

Our group investigates circadian clocks in mammals using mice as a model system. We are interested in the question how clocks in different tissues adjust to environmental cues and how the brain integrates this information to produce coherent systemic circadian rhythms. This is of central interest, because loss of a stable clock-phase relationship between organs is one of the characteristics found to be changed in many human diseases including depression, obesity and cancer.

### Your Mission

Identify molecular processes that respond to environmental cues such as light and food, which alter clock components in their expression and phosphorylation status. A focus will be on Period genes and proteins. A second goal will be to understand the role of neurons and astrocytes in the coordination of environmental responses and whether this has an impact on sleep.

### Your profile

We are looking for highly motivated, team-oriented independent thinkers. The applicant should have a Master Degree in biology, neuroscience or a related subject. Previous experience with chronobiology, molecular tools, as well as good communication skills and proficiency in English are a plus. In general, any previous specific knowledge is less important than strong motivation, enthusiasm for scientific research, problem-solving skills, and possibly a track-record of individual and team accomplishments.

### We offer

The position is funded by the [Swiss National Science Foundation](#). We offer a stimulating, friendly and interdisciplinary work environment, with excellent working conditions (salary, resources, ...) and frontier research projects. [The Department of Biology](#) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) gathers very dynamic researchers with a strong commitment toward innovation and excellence in science. It offers a stimulating and supportive environment, with an open-minded atmosphere ideal to foster synergies. The selected candidate will also have the opportunity to interact extensively with members of the Department. In addition, she/he will also benefit from strong international collaborations. The successful PhD candidate will enrol in the Fribourg Graduate School of Life Sciences (FGS) providing high-quality education opportunities to complement the laboratory training. The position is fully funded for 3 years, with a possible 1-year extension. In addition, PhD students will have the possibility to apply to postdoctoral fellowships from the SNF after completion of their PhD. Initial gross annual salary will be 47,040 CHF (~ 47,000 \$). Start date: January 2021 or later.

### Application

Please send your application, including short cover letter (explaining background and motivation) and a complete CV via e-mail to: [urs.albrecht@unifr.ch](mailto:urs.albrecht@unifr.ch)