



For our Collaborative Research Center on “Plant Ecological Genetics” the Institute for Plant Genetics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Heinrich Heine University (HHU) Düsseldorf invites applications for a

PhD Position (w/m/d) (65 %, EG 13 TV-L)

“Adaptation to Changing Environments in Grasses: Bridging Ecology and Genetics”

SFB/TRR341 „Plant Ecological Genetics”

The [Collaborative Research Center TRR341 “Plant Ecological Genetics”](#) is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) at the Universities of Cologne, Düsseldorf, Bochum, Marburg, Potsdam and the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research. In a joint and interdisciplinary approach, combining Plant Genetics/Genomics and Ecology, we are investigating plant responses and adaptation to global environmental change and their genetic underpinnings.

Within the TRR341 we are looking for a PhD candidate to decipher adaptation genetic variation in the barley wild relative *Hordeum murinum*. We aim to establish *H. murinum* as a model to decipher local adaptation and range expansion in a joint project between the [von Korff lab](#) and the [Bucharova lab](#). The position will be located at HHU Düsseldorf in the [von Korff lab](#).

What are your tasks:

- Conduct common garden experiments to score phenotypic variation in variable *H. murinum* accessions and F2 populations.
- Conduct QTL analyses of scored traits in the common garden.
- Compare genetic variation of adaptive candidate genes in *H. murinum* with the variation found in its crop relative barley.

- Apply statistical and computational tools for the analysis of trait and next-generation sequencing data.
- Present and publish research results in conferences and scientific journals.

What do we expect

- MSc degree in the field of plant biology, evolutionary or population genetics, quantitative genetics, plant breeding or a comparable discipline.
- Interest in quantitative genetic and evolutionary biology methods and concepts.
- Experience in the use of statistical methods and programming/scripting languages (e.g. R, Julia, bash) is desirable.
- Good oral and written communication skills in English.

We offer you

- A unique and interdisciplinary research network in the field of Plant Ecological Genetics ([TRR 341](#)) that bundles the expertise of excellent scientists from six different research institutions.
- A structured Graduate School in Ecological Genetics ([GEcoGen](#)) including a comprehensive training program with targeted scientific education in the field of Plant Ecological Genetics
- Complementary training at HHU ([Juno](#)) supporting your personal and career development.
- Family-friendly working environment.

If you have further questions on the project or position, please contact Prof. Maria von Korff Schmising (maria.korff.schmising@hhu.de).

Qualified candidates should send their application (cover letter, CV, publication list, around half a page describing their latest research project, contact info of two references, BSc and MSc certificates) by e-mail (one single pdf-file) until **09.11.2026** to maria.korff.schmising@hhu.de.