The Institute of Avian Research "Vogelwarte Helgoland" is a non-university research institute in the portfolio of the Lower Saxonian Ministry of Science and Cultural Affairs. The Institute members conduct fundamental research on the complex relationships between birds and their environments. The central research foci are bird migration and life history biology. In addition, the Institute houses the Bird Ringing Centre for Northwest Germany.

We are searching for a

PhD student (salary level TV-L E13, 50%)

to join the Institute between 01.01.2021 and 31.12.2023. The successful candidate will work in the team of PD. Dr. Sandra Bouwhuis and investigate causes and consequences of mercury contamination in a long-lived seabird, the common tern.

The main responsibilities of the student will be to
- conduct collaborative fieldwork in a large colony of common terns breeding at the Banter See in Wilhelmshaven (annually between April and August),
- analyse collected samples for mercury in the lab of Prof. Peter Schupp from the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg,
- run statistical analyses of large longitudinal datasets in collaboration with Dr. Coraline Bichet from the Center for Biological Studies of Chizé (CEBC) at La Rochelle University (France),
- publish papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals as a first and co-author,
- present the work at national and international conferences, and
- join outreach events, such as open days and/or Science Slam.

We therefore seek a smart and highly motivated student with
- an Msc degree in biology,
- a strong interest in, and experience with, ornithological fieldwork,
- affinity and experience with labwork,
- experience with analysing data in R,
- a proven ability to work as part of an international team, and
- excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and German.

The Institute of Avian Research is an equal opportunity employer, determined to increase the proportion of women in successful scientific careers. If equally qualified, disabled applicants will be preferably considered.

Applicants must send a single pdf via e-mail, containing a statement of motivation, CV, and the names and addresses of two professional referees by 15.10.2020 to Dr. Sandra Bouwhuis (sandra.bouwhuis@ifv-vogelwarte.de).