

MSc-thesis topics for winter semester 2020/21

For the winter term 2020/21 we are looking for two motivated students to conduct their Master thesis (and/or "Laborpraktikum") within the DFG-Project "Olfactory cognition of social relationships in primates" of Dr. Brigitte Schlögl (AG Widdig).



General information:

Both thesis projects include field work at the "Affenberg Salem" in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, which is home to ~ 200 barbary macaques ranging freely within the monkey park. The park is situated close to Lake Constance (Bodensee) in a rural area ~ 5km from the next village. Public transport is limited and mobile phone/internet access can be intermittent.

Working at the park will require learning to ID up to 200 monkeys from natural markings, flexible time management (incl. occasional weekend work), living in a fairly remote location with limited communication possibilities, working in a team with varying backgrounds and doing work in a zoo-like environment with (lots of) visitors.

Accommodation at and travel to and from the field site (1x return) will be covered by the project.

MSc-Thesis I: Olfactory individual recognition in Barbary macaques at Affenberg Salem

This thesis will assess whether Barbary macaques recognize individuals using scent alone. To do so, the student will collect cotton samples for odour presentations and conduct odour presentations (using a habituation-dishabituation paradigm) *at Affenberg Salem for 2 – 3 months* (anticipated start in October). Data analysis and writing up will take place at the University of Leipzig (AG Widdig).

MSc-Thesis II: Olfactory kin recognition in Barbary macaques at Affenberg Salem

This thesis will assess whether Barbary macaques recognize a) their own kin and b) kin relationships among group members using scent alone. To do so, the student will collect cotton samples for odour presentations and conduct odour presentations (using two-choice tasks and an expectancy violation paradigm) *at Affenberg Salem for 2 – 3 months* (anticipated start in October). Data analysis and writing up will take place at the University of Leipzig (AG Widdig).

For further information please contact Dr. Brigitte Schlögl: brigitte.schloegl@uni-leipzig.de