



We are seeking a PhD student to join our [research group focused on ticks and tick-borne diseases](#). Our research group is based at the Institute for Hygiene and Applied Immunology within the Center for Pathophysiology, Infectiology, and Immunology at the Medical University of Vienna.

The successful candidate will work within a project funded by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research of Austria (BMBWF) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) focused on artificial tick feeding. Our project aims to replace, reduce and refine the use of laboratory animals in tick research. For this, we have three objectives:

1. Optimise the artificial feeding system based on silicone membranes.
2. Formulate an alternative food for ticks, without or less based on blood from animals.
3. Develop an infection model to study the interactions between ticks and pathogens using the artificial feeding system.

Requirements:

- An MSc degree in a related field (e.g. molecular biology, microbiology, Biomedical Sciences).
- The ability to work independently but also in a cooperative team.
- Good communication and writing skills in both German and English.
- Interest and passion for research and good problem-solving skills.
- Experience with statistics is an advantage.
- Willingness to work with live ticks is required.
- Willingness to do fieldwork (i.e., collecting ticks).

We offer:

- Salary according to the collective agreement of the Austrian Universities.
- Flexible working hours.
- Active participation in research projects from start to finish and a good start into a scientific career.
- Personal development courses.
- Work in a friendly and supportive international team.

**The application deadline is the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2025.**

Informal enquiries and applications can be sent by email to [zecken@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:zecken@meduniwien.ac.at). Please include the following:

1. A motivation letter that outlines your research interests and reasons for pursuing a PhD.
2. A CV including a publication list.
3. The names and contact details (including an institutional email address) of at least two references.