



**PhD student positions in the German Research Foundation (DFG) funded
Research Unit FOR2722
“ECM biology and musculoskeletal diseases”**

The Research Unit has an open call for **17 PhD student positions** and **clinician scientists** to join our network of excellent and passionate scientists located in one of the most vibrant cities in the center of Europe - Cologne. We work on the **extracellular matrix** (ECM), the complex and highly information-containing molecular network that surrounds cells. The ECM influences most aspects of cellular function by binding to cell surface receptors or modulating growth factor signalling. It is thereby intimately involved in many forms of inherited or acquired disease.

Join our vivid network on extracellular matrix biology & musculoskeletal diseases and make a difference!

- Work with leading experts on connective tissue diseases, uncover novel molecular pathomechanisms and develop tailored therapies.
- Enjoy a highly interdisciplinary research environment with 18 internationally recognized group leaders from basic science to translational medicine with focus on mechanobiology, systems biology, biochemistry, molecular and developmental biology, human genetics and diseases, clinical translation.
- Interact with groups of our collaborative research network at renowned institutions:

The Childrens Hospital & research institutes of the University of Cologne - the German Sport University Cologne - the Max Planck Institute for the Biology of Aging - the Cluster of Excellence CECAD – the Institute for Musculoskeletal Medicine (Münster) - the Dr. Rolf M. Schwiete Research Unit (Frankfurt)

You will benefit from

- Excellent projects that address basic and translational questions in extracellular matrix biology and connective tissue diseases
- Access to advanced imaging/mass spectrometry/genomic & gene editing technologies, disease models (mouse, fish, organoids) and translational approaches (protein targeting & therapeutic antibody development)
- Advanced training, mentoring and networking in a cohort of PhD students entirely dedicated to the extracellular matrix and connective tissue diseases
- Training workshops in extracellular matrix biology and musculoskeletal diseases, high throughput data analysis and clinical aspects of connective tissue diseases

- Soft skills courses (presentation & scientific writing, good scientific conduct)
- Structured PhD programme and thesis advisory committees
- Participation and organization of summer schools, seminar series, annual retreats and international symposia
- Mobility grants for national and international short term lab visits
- Full funding for international and German students, no tuition costs

We invite

highly motivated applicants with an MSc (or equivalent) degree and a strong background in life sciences e.g. biochemistry, molecular medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, medicine and bioengineering.

Apply now and send your application including a letter of motivation, copy of certificates, a CV and names of two references to

elena.steinbarth@uk-koeln.de

For further information visit us on Twitter @DFG_FOR2722 or <https://for2722.uni-koeln.de>