



UNIVERSITY  
OF COLOGNE

Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

## Research Associate (f/m/x)

### Zoological Institute



Photo: Thomas Jusek

We are one of the largest and oldest universities in Europe and one of the most important employers in our region. Our broad range of subjects, the dynamic development of our main research areas and our central location in Cologne make us attractive for students and researchers from around the world. We offer a wide range of career opportunities in science, technology, and administration.

The Masseck Lab develops new tools to illuminate how neuronal circuits interact, and combines optogenetics, electrophysiology, imaging, and behaviours to decipher the role of neuromodulators in complex behaviours such as decision making, learning, health and disease.

#### YOUR TASKS

- » Planning, execution, and analysis of experiments to investigate neuromodulatory neural circuits
- » Application and further development of modern neuroscience methods, particularly optogenetics, electrophysiology, in vivo and in vitro imaging, and behavioural analyses
- » Design and analysis of animal experiments to study neuronal network dynamics
- » Development and establishment of novel experimental approaches to investigate the function of neuromodulators in health and disease
- » Quantitative analysis and statistical evaluation of complex neurobiological datasets
- » Documentation, interpretation, and presentation of scientific results
- » Contribution to scientific publications and presentation of results at national and international conferences
- » Supervision and mentoring of students in practical courses, as well as Bachelor's and Master's theses
- » Participation in the acquisition of third-party funding and preparation of research proposals
- » Contribution to organizational tasks within the research group and active participation in national and international collaborations

#### YOUR PROFILE

- » A completed scientific university degree and a successfully completed PhD in neuroscience, biology, biochemistry, biomedicine, or a related field.
- » Strong interest in systems and molecular neuroscience
- » Experience with modern neuroscience techniques (e.g., optogenetics, imaging, electrophysiology, or behavioural analyses)
- » Experience with animal experiments (mouse models)
- » Knowledge of data analysis and statistics; ideally experience with programming languages such as Python or MATLAB
- » Independent, structured, and careful working style
- » Strong team spirit and a high level of motivation for interdisciplinary research
- » Excellent written and spoken English skills

#### WE OFFER

- » An exciting and engaging role in cutting-edge neuroscience research
- » A diverse working environment with equal opportunities
- » Support in balancing work and family life
- » Extensive advanced training opportunities
- » Occupational health management offers
- » Flexible working time models, full-time positions suitable for job sharing
- » Opportunity to work remotely

The University of Cologne promotes equal opportunities and diversity. Women will be considered preferentially in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Landesgleichstellungsgesetz – LGG NRW). We also expressly welcome applications from all suitable candidates regardless of their gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation and identity.

The position is available from 1 June 2026 on a full-time basis (39,83 hours per week). It is limited to 31 May 2028. If the applicant meets the relevant wage requirements and personal qualifications, the salary is based on remuneration group 13 TV-L of the pay scale for the German public sector.

Please apply online with proof of the required qualifications without photo under: <https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de>. The reference number is Wiss2603-12. The application deadline is 15.04.2026. For further inquiries, please contact Professor Dr Olivia Masseck ([omasseck@uni-koeln.de](mailto:omasseck@uni-koeln.de)) and take a look at our [FAQs](#).



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH