Vacancy

Our Mission: We study life and planet Earth, maintaining a dialogue with people.

The Museum für Naturkunde - Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science is an excellent and integrated research museum within the Leibniz Association. Its activities cover and tightly link the fields of collection-based research, development of collections and public engagement with science.

Position: Zoological taxidermist/preparator specialising in birds (m/f/d)

Work schedule: full-time

Duration: as soon as possible, limited to 2 years, with the intention to convert to a permanent position

Salary level: E 9TV-L

Responsibilities:

The position is based in the bird collection of the Museum für Naturkunde (MfN). With 200,000 specimens, the MfN’s bird collection is the largest of its kind in Germany. It contains study skins as well as mounted birds, skeletons, nests, eggs, specimens preserved with PEG or alcohol, and a feather collection. Many of the preserved specimens are historically and scientifically unique. The position involves a comprehensive range of preservation, taxidermy and restoration methods, offering variety and plenty of potential for further development.

The successful candidate will be part of the zoological vertebrate preparator team. The Berlin School of zoological taxidermy has a long tradition and a national and international reputation for its outstanding taxidermy specimens and innovative methods. The team works together to tackle the challenges involved in large collection and exhibition projects. The position also offers a chance for further development in the field of exhibition taxidermy and the opportunity to take part in competitions.

Specific tasks include

- Independently planning and carrying out zoological taxidermy and preservation work for specific scientific purposes in the bird collection
- Independently planning and carrying out complex conservation and restoration work in the research collection and on unique historical specimens and type material
- Developing and testing new methods, technologies and materials
- Passing on knowledge through training and further training
- Preparing and carrying out PR activities

Requirements:

- University or equivalent degree in taxidermy or a vocational training qualification as a zoological taxidermist/preparator. Candidates who can demonstrate equivalent skills and experience gained through years of professional work will also be considered
- Thorough, comprehensive specialist knowledge and practical experience in all established preservation and preparation methods and techniques for vertebrates, specialising in birds, gained through years of relevant professional experience
- Specialist knowledge and practical experience in the restoration and repair of historical specimens
- Specialist knowledge of the anatomy and morphology of vertebrates, particularly birds
- General species knowledge, specifically for birds, and a working knowledge of bird taxonomy
- Specialist knowledge about dealing with natural history collections, including their use, standards and laws, gained through professional experience in museums and collections
- Very good language skills, especially German and English
In addition, we expect:
- Initiative and independence
- Communication skills and the ability to work in a team
- A strong sense of responsibility when dealing with fragile, historically valuable collection specimens
- Constant reliability in dealing with documentation, databases and digital records of data relating to specimens in the collection

Special Notes:

In support of equal rights applications from qualified women are particularly welcome. Handicapped individuals will be given preference in cases of identical qualifications.

Applications with the usual documents (application letter, CV, degree certificates) should be sent, preferably by email (recruiting@mfn.berlin), to the Museum für Naturkunde, Personalf referat, Invalidenstrasse 43, 10115 Berlin, Germany. Applications must be clearly marked with the code 25/2019. Application deadline is 05.05.2019.

Further informations:

Family Policy: The Museum für Naturkunde has set itself the goal of promoting a work-life balance and has been awarded the certificate berufundfamilie audit of berufundfamilie gGmbH - an initiative of the Hertie Foundation. Further information can be found under: https://www.naturkundemuseum.berlin/de/jobs-und-karriere/arbeiten-am-museum-fuer-naturkunde/audit-berufundfamilie

Data Protection:

By sending your application you agree to the collection and processing of your data, for the purpose of processing your application, by the Museum of Natural History. Your data will always be kept strictly confidential. After receiving your application documents, they will be recorded in our database. Your data will be stored on our server. At the end of the selection process or at your request, your data will be deleted immediately. Please note, however, that statutory retention periods may require that the data be retained (in blocked form) until the deadline.