

**DFG Research Training Group (GRK 2318) TJ-Train offers****12 PhD positions (E13 65 %) in Natural and Life Sciences,****10 positions at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin****1 position at MDC Berlin (Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine)****1 position at FMP Berlin (Leibniz-Forschungsinstitut für Molekulare Pharmakologie)**

Three project areas offer research on different aspects of tight junctions (TJ) in epithelial barrier function. Project area A comprises basic research on structure and function of TJ proteins, which provides the requirement for understanding TJ development and regulation and its role in pathogenesis of disease. Project area B focuses on the role of TJ proteins in the developing tissue and the regulation of TJ proteins and TJ assembly on different levels. Project area C focuses on modulation of TJ in infectious and inflammatory intestinal disease associated with barrier dysfunction. Information concerning the projects on the project list.

**Your area of responsibility**

- Planning, organization and implementation of scientific studies
- The methods are dependent on the projects and include cell culture, molecular and immunohistochemical methods, confocal microscopy, high-resolution microscopy, next-generation sequencing, experimental animal methods, knockout mouse models, electrophysiological techniques
- Independent evaluation and documentation of the results
- Writing of scientific publications
- Participation in scientific events and presentation of results at congresses
- Participation in the qualification program of the Research Training Group

**Your profile**

- very good University degree (equivalent diploma/master) in biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, bioinformatics, biophysics or a related subject
- strong scientific motivation
- special interest in cell biology and in functional and pathophysiological-translational issues
- very good communication and writing skills in English
- personal initiative, skills in teamwork, organization and logistics

**Important deadlines**

Application period:	until May 25, 2020
Notification of selection results:	June 2, 2020
Assessment Center:	between June 15 – 17, 2020 (in Berlin or via Skype)
Decision released:	July 17, 2020
Commencement of employment:	October 1, 2020

## Important information for application

Applications will be accepted only via email to [tj-train@charite.de](mailto:tj-train@charite.de) during the application period.

The participation in the Assessment Center (in Berlin or via Skype) is mandatory.

The time between selection for interviews and the Assessment Center is rather short for applicants who need a passport or visa to travel to Germany. If you are invited to the Assessment Center, it is your responsibility to make sure you have all required documents to travel.

If you have any questions or encounter any problems when preparing your application please don't hesitate to contact the coordinator, Rita Rosenthal, by e-mail [tj-train@charite.de](mailto:tj-train@charite.de).

## Requirements

RTG PhD applicants are required to have a diploma, master degree or comparable degree in a biomedical discipline with grade "very good" or "good".

Formal requirements for the acceptance as PhD student are:

- 1) Master degree (or comparable) in a relevant subject from a University listed and positively rated by the "anabin" database of the "Kultusminister Konferenz" (<http://anabin.kmk.org/>)
- 2) a total of 300 ECTS credit or equivalent for obtaining the Master degree ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_Credit\\_Transfer\\_and\\_Accumulation\\_System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Credit_Transfer_and_Accumulation_System))
- 3) a thesis project as part of the Master degree
- 4) a final mark of at least "2" (good) as calculated by the "Bayerische Formel":

$$N = 1 + 3 \cdot \frac{P_{\max} - P}{P_{\max} - P_{\min}}$$

N: final equivalent mark within the German system

P: final mark of the student in his/her institution's system

Pmax: best possible mark of the foreign institution

Pmin: lowest possible mark (above fail) of the foreign institution

Applications are also welcome if the required degree has not yet been awarded by the time of application. However, this must have been conferred **before** the official start date of October 1, 2020.

Applicants who are not native English speakers should demonstrate an adequate competence of the English language during the presentations and interviews in Berlin. It is necessary that applicants can communicate in spoken and written English. Applicants are encouraged but not required to submit TOEFL or IELTS certificates with their applications.

## Application

- 1) The application must be written in English language (application form, CV). Please select 3 projects sorted by priority and include this in the application form. The application form and the project list is available at <https://klinphys.charite.de/grk/>.
- 2) All submitted transcripts and certificates must be in English or German. Certified copies of documents are not mandatory in the application. However, for admitted students all relevant documents have to get certified.

- 3) The application must include the relevant university examinations (Master's and Bachelor's degree, or German *Diplom* and *Vordiplom*). If your final certificates are not available for your application, please submit provisional certificates and send final certificates as soon as available. Final certificates must be submitted for your employment. Please also include your final certificate of secondary school education (*Abitur*, *Matura*, or equivalent) which gives the right of admission to university. Please include an explanation of the grading system for this certificate.
- 4) The application must include reference letters of two academic teachers/supervisors.
- 5) Please submit your application via email [tj-train@charite.de](mailto:tj-train@charite.de) by May 25, 2020. The application will consist of **one pdf file** which includes application form, CV, university records (transcripts of completed courses and grades), certificates and reference letters.
- 6) We do not consider incomplete applications or applications consisting of more than one pdf file.
- 7) Interviews with candidates in Berlin or via Skype during the Assessment Center is a prerequisite to meet admission requirements in our PhD program.

### Checklist for your application

- Completed Application Form
- Curriculum vitae (1 page)
- Transcripts, records of study
- Certificates: Master (or Diploma), Bachelor, secondary school education, English language test (if available, not mandatory)
- Reference letters of two academic teachers/supervisors

### Application process

The faculty of GRK 2318 will select applicants for presentations and interviews in Berlin and for interviews via Skype during the Assessment Center. The candidates will be informed about the decision of the search committee not later than June 2, 2020. The GRK administration will pay a specific sum for travel and accommodation expenses (external candidates). Costs to obtain visas (visa fees and travel to embassies) are not covered.

The Assessment Center consists of short presentations of the Master/Diploma thesis, interviews, meetings with potential supervisors, and a visit of groups and labs. After the Assessment Center applicants will be asked to give a final, updated list of 3 preferred projects sorted by priority.

A final decision regarding the acceptance to the program will be made latest 4 weeks after the Assessment Center. All students will be informed about the decision by email. Selected PhD students will receive a work contract and start their PhD project on October 1, 2020. There are no tuition fees. However, PhD students are required to enroll at one of local universities with a contribution of ~ 50 € / month for which they will receive a ticket for free public transport in Berlin and surrounding areas.