Leibniz Institute for
Food Systems Biology
at the Technical University of Munich

Master's Student (m/f/d) – Thesis

The Leibniz Institute for Food Systems Biology at the Technical University of Munich (LeibnizLSB@TUM), a legal foundation under civil law based in Freising, is a prominent member of the Leibniz Association. Our institute integrates cutting-edge biomolecular research, bioinformatics, and high-performance analytical technologies to explore the complex interactions between the human organism and food components.

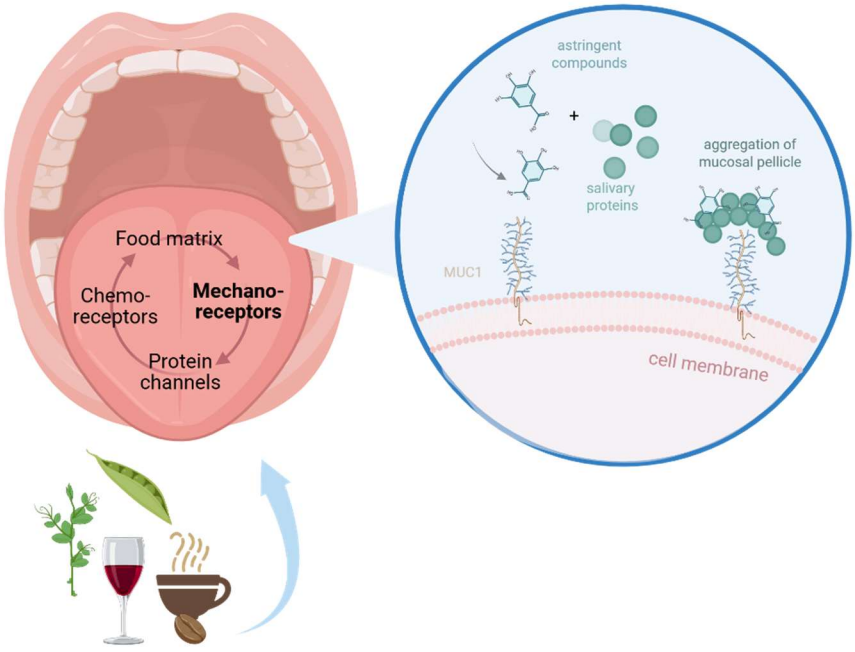
To strengthen our research group **Mechanoreceptors & Sensory Biophysics / Section II**, we are currently looking for a committed Master's Student of Biophysics/ Biochemistry/ Food Chemistry/ or related for the preparation of a Master's thesis to start as soon as possible. The topic of the thesis is "Unravelling the Astringency Perception Mechanism from a Biophysical point of view".

In this project, you will:

- Contribute to deciphering the interaction mechanism of astringent compounds with components of the oral cavity.
- Use the atomic force microscope (AFM) to measure nanomechanical properties.
- Contribute to cutting-edge research that could inform the development of more appealing, healthier food options.

Key Responsibilities:

- Literature research
- Independent preparation of biomolecular samples to be probed
- Experimental investigations using AFM and associated data analysis
- Organizational support for project-related activities and coordination tasks
- Compilation of results in a scientific paper



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Ideal Applicants Must Have:

- keen interest in learning and applying experimental biophysical techniques, in particular AFM (essential)
- basic knowledge of laboratory work (*e.g.* preparation of solutions and their calculation)
- a high degree of independence and commitment to work, as well as a structured approach to new issues
- sufficient knowledge of English to communicate with other group members
- knowledge of the guidelines for ensuring good scientific practice
- an excellent track record

We are seeking a highly motivated individual with excellent interpersonal communication, time-management skills, commitment to laboratory safety and handling laboratory equipment with care. We are looking for a team player, who can work independently as well. This offer is aimed exclusively at students.

What we offer:

- a respectful and collegial working atmosphere
- an interesting and responsible role in the context of cutting-edge non-university research
- flexible working hours enabling a good balance between work and family life
- a motivated team looking forward to welcoming you

Equal Opportunities and Diversity

Leibniz-LSB@TUM is committed to equal opportunities, diversity, and a respectful working environment. We welcome applications regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation and identity.

Applicants with severe disabilities or those with equivalent status will be given preferential consideration in cases of essentially equal qualification (§ 2 SGB IX).

Contact and Application

For any inquiries regarding the advertised position, please contact:
Dr. Rita Natividade, r.natividade.leibniz-lsb@tum.de.

More information on the working group can be found here:
https://www.leibniz-lsb.de/forschung/forschungssektionen/sektion-iii.

Please send your application, including a tabular CV and a current transcript of records, as a PDF file and stating the reference number **2025-14-S2-MK** via email to:
Dr. Melanie Köhler (Head of Junior Research Group) m.koehler.leibniz-lsb@tum.de and **Katharina Ranner** recruiting.leibniz-lsb@tum.de.

We look forward to receiving your application!

Data Protection Notice:

As part of your application for a position at Leibniz-LSB@TUM, you will transmit personal data. Please refer to our data protection information in accordance with Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) regarding the collection and processing of personal data in the context of your application. By submitting your application, you confirm that you have taken note of the Leibniz-LSB@TUM data protection information.