



University  
of Basel

BIOZENTRUM

The Center for  
Molecular Life Sciences

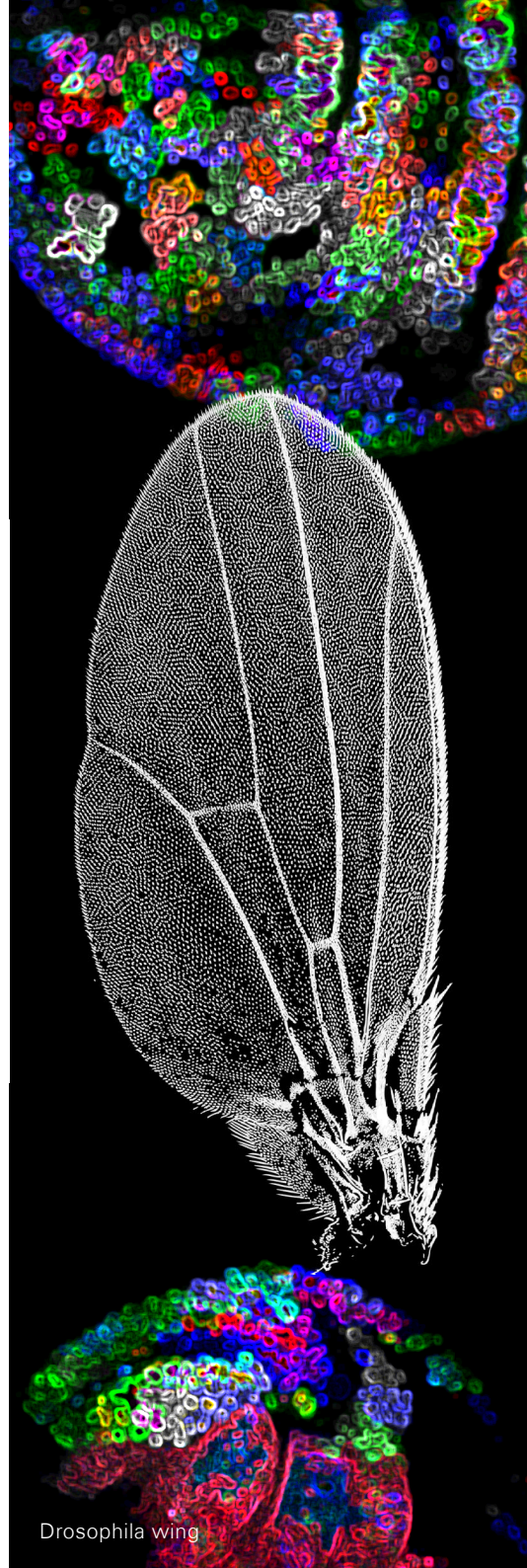
# Postgraduate studies at the Biozentrum.



PhD Students  
& Postdocs.

## Young talent at the forefront of life science research.

With its interdisciplinary PhD program, the Biozentrum offers Master graduates an attractive research environment for doctoral studies in molecular and cellular biology. Alongside this first-class program, the Biozentrum, together with the Werner Siemens-Foundation, has established the "Fellowships for Excellence" PhD program to attract and support the best young talent from around the world. Likewise, for postdocs, the Biozentrum has an excellent international reputation as an acclaimed and popular research institution. With the training of young scientists representing a priority of our educational philosophy, the Biozentrum has served as a launching pad for numerous successful research careers. Today, many of the Biozentrum alumni are established professors at distinguished institutions, or leaders in industry and business.



State-of-the-art research facilities, an extraordinary wealth of different research expertise and a wide range of courses, lectures, workshops and conferences await graduate students at the Biozentrum.

Drosophila wing

## **Innovative, interdisciplinary and international.**

The Biozentrum of the University of Basel ranks among the leading institutes worldwide for basic molecular and biomedical research and education. It is home to more than 30 research groups with staff from more than 40 countries.

Research at the Biozentrum includes the areas of Cell Growth & Development, Infection Biology, Neurobiology, Structural Biology & Biophysics, and Computational & Systems Biology. With an output of around 200 highly-ranked scientific publications every year, the Biozentrum is regularly in the top quarter of international rankings. Numerous honors and awards highlight the Biozentrum's scientific success, which has its roots in a strong commitment to basic and interdisciplinary research. The emphasis on interdisciplinary research, unique and innovative in 1971 when the Biozentrum was founded, remains a recognized strength promoting innovation within its walls and fostering interactions with partners from industry and academia worldwide. This, together with broad funding, state-of-the-art technology platforms, and excellent scientific IT infrastructure makes its research program highly visible and internationally competitive, facilitating life science research at the highest level.

The location of the Biozentrum in Basel contributes to its attraction and international standing. Embedded in Europe's most important life sciences hub – the trination BioValley of Switzerland, Germany and France – it capitalizes on close proximity and connections to many academic research institutes, over 600 life sciences and biotechnology enterprises, and two of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, Novartis and Roche.

☐ [www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/research](http://www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/research)

## **International PhD program.**

With its excellent reputation, the Biozentrum attracts graduate students from around the world. Currently, over 120 PhD students are supervised at the institute, where they deepen both their theoretical and practical knowledge in the life sciences. The Biozentrum PhD program builds on a university degree in biology or related science discipline and requires the student to engage in an independent research project under the guidance of a Biozentrum faculty member and supervision of a Thesis Advisory Committee.

This practical training in the latest methodologies and techniques in various fields of modern-day molecular biology research is complemented by a rich interdisciplinary graduate teaching program offered in collaboration with scientists from the Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI), the Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering (D-BSSE) of the ETH, the Department of Biomedicine (DBM), and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (SwissTPH). The program also provides teaching in practical skills such as scientific communication, as well as a series of short practical courses in imaging, proteomics, genomics, and biophysical techniques. PhD fellows regularly attend scientific meetings and organize their own seminar series, PhD club, career guidance events, and an annual two-day PhD retreat.

☐ [www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/phd](http://www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/phd)

## Fellowships for Excellence.

The Biozentrum offers “Fellowships for Excellence” to outstanding PhD students from around the world. Each year, up to ten young scientists are chosen out of hundreds of applicants to benefit from this prestigious program.

The Biozentrum invites talented, ambitious and highly motivated young scientists to apply for the “Fellowships for Excellence” program. These PhD fellowships, which are supported by the Werner Siemens-Foundation, are awarded on a competitive basis and provide direct entry to the Biozentrum’s International PhD Program alongside the direct application to research group leaders. Successful candidates select two research groups at the Biozentrum for an initial two-month rotation and only then decide on the research group best suited to their project. In addition, they receive generous financial support for their research and personal annual stipends for meetings, journals, etc. The program takes three to four years to complete and culminates in a dissertation.

📄 [www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/excellence](http://www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/excellence)

## Worth knowing.

### PhD application

Applicants for the PhD program must hold a university degree (MSc, Diploma, DEA, etc.) that qualifies them for admission to a PhD program in their home country. Applications for the International PhD Program can be made directly to the head of a research group at the Biozentrum at any time during the year (Track 1).

Applications for the “Fellowships for Excellence” program (Track 2) must be placed online. The following dates apply:

- » Start online applications: February
- » Closing date for applications: June
- » Publication of shortlisted candidates: end of July
- » Interview days: end of August

### PhD graduate teaching program

📄 [www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/graduate-program](http://www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/graduate-program)

### PhD further information

Angelika Klarer  
International PhD Program  
Biozentrum, University of Basel  
Klingelbergstrasse 50/70  
4056 Basel, Switzerland  
☎ +41 61 207 21 60  
✉ [angie.klarer@unibas.ch](mailto:angie.klarer@unibas.ch)

### Postdoc application

📄 [www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/open-positions](http://www.biozentrum.unibas.ch/open-positions)

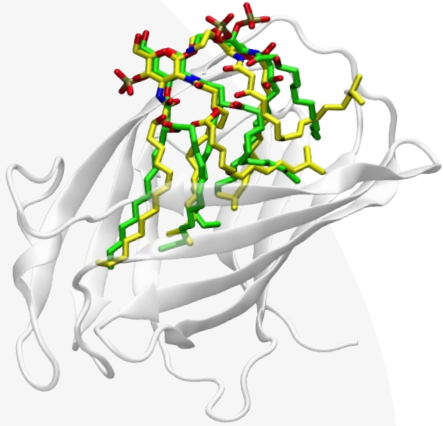


## **A launching pad for your postdoctoral career.**

Today, research projects are often so complex that they can be realized only with the collaboration of several experts. So whilst the Biozentrum has five focal areas of research – Growth & Development, Infection Biology, Neurobiology, Structural Biology & Biophysics, and Computational & Systems Biology – it is often at their overlap that new and relevant questions arise and lead to innovative solutions. Due to its broad approach to research, the Biozentrum is also linked to a variety of natural-science-based institutes in Switzerland and it profits locally from a unique density of research institutes and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. Did you know, for example, that Basel has one of the highest concentration of neuroscientists worldwide and a strong focus on stem cell research? Of course, as an internationally renowned institute, the Biozentrum also networks with numerous important research institutions throughout the world.

With more than 40 years of expertise in interdisciplinary research, its five focal areas of research, its close network with industry and research facilities worldwide, as well as its state-of-the-art technology platforms, the Biozentrum is a unique and challenging place to be a postdoc.

Scientists at the Biozentrum can exploit collaborations and partnerships at home and abroad in developing their careers. Furthermore, the influx of multi-disciplinary master and PhD students, postdocs, and professors from around the world contributes to an open and amicable work atmosphere, creating a special and successful research culture. Currently, approximately 120 international and highly qualified young scientists are enjoying postdoctoral training at the Biozentrum. Professional collaborations between the postdocs are encouraged by the postdoc club, which also supports its members in all questions related to career planning, organizes social events, and generally furthers their well-being in and around the Biozentrum.



Biozentrum, University of Basel  
Klingelbergstrasse 50/70  
4056 Basel, Switzerland  
☎ +41 61 207 21 11  
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