



PhD Program between Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC)

**Open PhD Position at Freie Universität Berlin,
offered only to Chinese CSC scholarship candidates 2026**

Department/Institute: [Institute of Food Safety and Food Hygiene
Center for Veterinary Public Health
School of Veterinary Medicine]

Subject area: [Food Microbiology]

Name of Supervisor: [Prof. Dr. Thomas Alter]

Number of open PhD positions: [1]

Type of the PhD Study: [Full time]

Project title: [Impact of environmental factors on *Arcobacter* spp.
bioaccumulation and depuration in mussels]

PhD Project description:

Arcobacter (*A.*) *butzleri* and *A. cryaerophilus* are classified as serious hazard to human health by the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications in Food (ICMSF), and several cases of gastroenteritis in human associated with *Arcobacter* spp. have been reported. These bacteria are frequently isolated from various types of water and are also highly prevalent in seafood and shellfish. Contaminated shellfish can therefore be a source of *Arcobacter* transmission to humans, mainly through handling or consumption of undercooked products. However, knowledge regarding accumulation and depuration of *Arcobacter* spp. in mussels is largely unexplored.

This project aims to investigate the bio-accumulation, survival during storage and depuration efficiency of *Arcobacter* spp. in mussels using a laboratory mussel model, that has already been established at our institute. The study will focus on the impact of environmental factors such as temperature and salinity on this behaviour.

Language requirements:

PhD study in English: IELTS: 6,5 oder TOEFL: 95 ibt

Academic requirements:

Master in biological sciences, food sciences, molecular biotechnology or veterinary medicine

Information of the professor or research group leader (website, awards etc.):

<http://www.vetmed.fu-berlin.de/en/einrichtungen/institute/we08/index.html>

Please note:

In a first step, the complete application should be uploaded to the online portal (<https://fuberlin.moveon4.de/form/60acfece5d328710e40bdbd5/eng>) for evaluation by December 15th, 2025.