



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 Biology]

Subject area: [Biology, Ecology]

Name of Supervisor: [Justyna Wolinska]

Number of open PhD positions: [1]

Type of the PhD Study: [Full-time]

Project title: [Evolutionary Ecology of Host-Parasite Interactions under
Global Change]

PhD Project description:

How do global stressors such as pollution and climate warming shape interactions between hosts and parasites in aquatic ecosystems? This PhD project explores the combined effects of pollutants (e.g. pesticides, microplastics) and temperature rise on freshwater host-parasite systems, using phytoplankton and zooplankton as model organisms. The research will combine controlled laboratory experiments with molecular analyses to assess physiological and transcriptional responses of hosts and parasites under single and combined stressors. A particular focus will be placed on mechanistic explanations, including shifts in host- and parasite-associated microbiomes. By integrating ecological, physiological, and molecular approaches, the project aims to advance our understanding of how environmental change influences disease dynamics and food web stability in freshwater systems.

Language requirements:

- IELTS: 6,5 oder TOEFL: 95 ibt

Academic requirements:

MSc degree in Biology, Biotechnology, or a related field.
Experience in experimental work is advantageous.
Proficiency in statistics is required.
Experience with bioinformatics and molecular techniques will be considered an asset.

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

<https://www.igb-berlin.de/en/profile/justyna-wolinska>

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.