

Dear Hymenoptera students,

Are you currently studying at a university in North America, the United Kingdom or Ireland? Would you like to spend three months in Germany gaining hands-on research experience with funding provided through the DAAD RISE Germany programme?

Our research group at the Natural History Museum in Stuttgart is offering a project on Parasitoid wasps as natural enemies of invasive leafhoppers and planthoppers. It is a great opportunity to join our team, contribute to an exciting research project, and experience academic life in Germany!

You can find more information about the RISE Germany programme here:

<https://www.daad.de/rise/en/rise-germany/>

Please note that you need to register on the RISE portal to view and apply for individual projects. Have a look at our project description (attached, but also available in the portal) and, if it sounds interesting to you, submit your application via the portal.

If you have any questions about the project or our team, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our team!

Best wishes,

Ana-Maria Chiosa and Maura Haas-Renninger

**NATURKUNDE
MUSEUM
STUTT GART**



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✉ **Bleiben Sie informiert:** Abonnieren Sie unseren Newsletter!

Unterstützen Sie das Museum und werden Sie [Mitglied im Förderverein!](#)
Informationen zur Verarbeitung personenbezogener Daten nach der
DSGVO durch das SMNS finden Sie [hier](#).





RISE Germany
German Academic Exchange Service
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst

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Internship description

Parasitoid wasps as natural enemies of invasive leafhoppers and planthoppers

Climate change and international trade are increasingly enabling insect species to establish outside their native ranges. In southwestern Germany, several non-native leafhopper and planthopper species are spreading and may become important pests in agriculture, viticulture and horticulture. Some species can also transmit plant pathogens.

Our project investigates the natural enemies of native and invasive leafhoppers and planthoppers, with a particular focus on parasitoid wasps. These tiny insects can attack leafhoppers at different life stages, for example as eggs or nymphs, and may play an important role in naturally regulating pest populations. However, little is currently known about the parasitoids associated with many recently established species in Germany.

During this three-month internship, the student will contribute to the study of host-parasitoid interactions by combining fieldwork, collection-based research and laboratory methods. The student will be integrated into an ongoing research project and receive practical training in insect biodiversity research.

The intern's main tasks will include:

- collecting leafhoppers, planthoppers and parasitoid wasps in southwestern Germany using suction sampling, sweep netting and sticky traps
- sorting and identifying specimens using morphological characters
- examining material from museum collections and contributing to host-parasitoid records
- learning molecular methods, including DNA extraction, PCR and sequencing
- assisting with laboratory experiments on the biology of leafhoppers and their parasitoids



The internship offers hands-on experience in field ecology, insect taxonomy, museum-based biodiversity research and molecular biology. Previous experience with insects, field sampling or molecular laboratory work is welcome but not essential. Curiosity, careful working habits and an interest in biodiversity, entomology or ecology are particularly important. The student will be based at the State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart (SMNS), Germany. The SMNS combines internationally important scientific collections with modern biodiversity research and collaborates closely with the University of Hohenheim and the Center for Biodiversity and Integrative Taxonomy (KomBioTa). The student will have the opportunity to visit the project partner, the LTZ Augustenberg in Karlsruhe and explore their laboratories, greenhouses and experimental fields.

Stuttgart is located in the state of Baden-Württemberg in southwestern Germany. The city has a lively student and cultural scene, and destinations, such as the Black Forest, France or Switzerland can be reached easily via public transport.