Saarland University is a campus university with an international reputation for research excellence, particularly in computer science and in the life sciences and nanosciences. The university is also distinguished by its close ties to France and its strong European focus. Around 17,000 students, studying over one hundred different academic disciplines, are currently enrolled at Saarland University. Saarland University is officially recognized as one of Germany’s family-friendly higher-education institutions and with a combined workforce of more than 4000 it is one of the largest employers in the region.

The Institute of Human Genetics at Saarland University is inviting applications for the following position commencing at the earliest opportunity.

**Academic research assistant (m/f/x)**

**Reference number W1942**, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale, pay grade: E13, employment: 36 months, 100 % of standard working time.

**Workplace/Department:**
The Institute of Human Genetics (Prof. Jens Mayer) at Saarland University is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral research associate (E13, 100%, 3 years) to study biology and clinical relevance of a HERV-encoded protease in the course of a research project funded by German Research Foundation (DFG). The institute has a long-standing interest in the biology of ERVs and other mobile genetic elements. Research is embedded in national and international collaborations.

**Job requirements and responsibilities:**
- Human endogenous retroviruses are associated with various human diseases. Our recent research indicated that a HERV-encoded protease potentially cleaves many different human proteins, many of which are involved in human diseases. In order to gain further insight into the biology and disease-relevance of that HERV-encoded protease, we now seek a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher with established expertise in wet-lab work, e.g., cloning, protein expression, Western blot, IF, FACS, ELISA, gene expression analysis, as well as other basic molecular and cell biology methods. Knowledge of sequence analysis in silico as well as biology of endogenous retroviruses and/or mobile genetic elements, including concepts for studying them experimentally, will be advantageous.

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*TV-L = collective agreement on remuneration of public sector employees in the German Länder*

The pay grade assigned to an employee depends on their professional qualifications and the number of years of service. Each pay grade is further subdivided into levels. Entry-level employees with no previous experience will initially be assigned a level 1 rating. After one year at level 1 of the E10 pay grade, an employee will move up to level 2. After a further two years, the employee will move to level 3, etc.
Your academic qualifications:
- Completed scientific university studies and a doctoral degree/PhD (is required) in a field of research directly related to the project to be conducted (molecular and cell biology and genetics, or equivalents).

The successful candidate will also be expected to:
- design the own research and discuss experimental results obtained together with the P.I.
- develop novel research directions and concepts from findings of the research project.
- have a good command of the oral and written English language.
- prepare scientific publications.
- participate in supervision of collegiate research by students at different training levels.
- develop independency as a researcher.
- submit an application including your detailed CV, a letter describing concisely your so far specific wet-lab and dry-lab experience and your motivation for conducting postdoctoral work in the particular research project, and contact information for three peers willing to provide references. Please submit your application electronically in a PDF file to the e-mail address mentioned below.

What we can offer you:
- A flexible work schedule allowing you to balance work and family
- A broad range of further education and professional development programmes
- An occupational health management model with numerous attractive options, such as our university sports programme
- Supplementary pension scheme (RZVK)
- Discounted tickets on local public transport services (‘Jobticket’)

We look forward to receiving your (written) application. Please quote reference number W1942 when applying. Applications must be received by no later than 17 October 2021 and should be sent to the following address:
Universität des Saarlandes
Herr Prof. Dr. Jens Mayer
Institute of Human Genetics
Medical Faculty, Building 60
66424 Homburg
Email: jens.mayer@uks.eu

Application documents will not be returned. Please only submit copies of your documents and do not use plastic wallets, folders, ring binders, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact us for assistance. Your contact:
Herr Prof. Dr. Jens Mayer
Institute of Human Genetics
Tel.: 06841-16-26627, preferrably by e-mail

In accordance with the objectives of its equal opportunities plan, Saarland University seeks to increase the proportion of women in this field. Qualified women candidates are therefore strongly encouraged to apply. Preferential consideration will be given to applications from disabled candidates of equal eligibility. The successful candidate has the option of choosing to work part-time in this position.

Pay grade classification is based on the particular details of the position held and the extent to which the applicant meets the requirements of the pay grade within the TV-L salary scale.

The costs for participation at a job interview are not reimbursable.

When you submit a job application to Saarland University you will be transmitting personal data. Please refer to our privacy notice for information on how we collect and process personal data in accordance with Art. 13 of the Datenschutz-Grundverordnung. By submitting your application you confirm that you have taken note of the information in the Saarland University privacy notice.