Job posting (Bio 02/2026)

The **Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde** (IOW) is an independent marine research institute of the Leibniz Association, which is committed to equal opportunities, family friendliness and the compatibility of work and family life. Our research focuses on the coastal and marginal seas, in particular the Baltic Sea. The staff of the five departments Physical Oceanography, Marine Chemistry, Biological Oceanography, Marine Geosciences and Marine Observations work on an interdisciplinary basis in a joint research program.

The Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde has a temporary position available, starting at the earliest date possible (preferably in March 2027), for a

Data scientist (Postdoc)

in the department of **Biological Oceanography** for **2 years** and a percentage of **80%** (32h/week). Remuneration will be provided in accordance with the Federal States Public Sector Collective Agreement (TV-L) salary scale at level E13.

What will be your tasks?

The announced position is part of the project: **MuCoME - Multi-level Corpus for Microbial Ecology** (https://www.iow.de/project/400/mucome.html). This project addresses the limited reusability of public metabarcoding data by improving methods for metadata curation and harmonization, developing pipelines for data cleansing and aggregation, and ensuring long-term public access through existing data infrastructures. The resulting data corpus will consist of a manually annotated gold standard for training natural language processing models, enriched metadata for datasets hosted at the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA), and fully processed microbial community data integrated into the MiCoDa (https://micoda.idiv.de) database.

As such, the position sits at the interface between research data management, bioinformatics, and natural language processing. Your tasks will encompass:

1. Using APIs to retrieve and link public metabarcoding sequencing datasets with scientific articles.
2. Contributing to the creation of a knowledge graph and annotated gold standard that will be used to extract structured metadata from unstructured text.
3. Developing bioinformatic workflows to automate metadata retrieval and curation.
4. Publishing the curated metadata through the ENA clearing house.

Additionally, you will be expected to write and contribute to peer-reviewed publications. Through the MuCoME project, you will gain interdisciplinary expertise with career prospects in a variety of data science fields. Networking opportunities include the NFDI consortia 4Biodiversity and 4Microbiota as well as participation in international conferences.

What do we expect from you?

- PhD in Biology, Bioinformatics, Data Science, or a related discipline, with a strong background in bioinformatics and sequence data analysis. If the candidate is about to complete their doctoral degree, they must submit, at the latest at the time of the hiring, a written confirmation that the dissertation has already been submitted, as well as a written confirmation from the advisor stating that the candidate is expected to successfully complete the doctoral degree.
- Proficiency in programming languages (Python, R, Bash)
- Strong scientific writing skills
- Excellent communication skills in English
- High degree of self-directed working capability, excellent organizational skills, and a collaborative, team-oriented mindset
- High motivation for interdisciplinary research at the intersection of bioinformatics, data management, and NLP, with a commitment to open and reproducible science practices
- Experience with sequence data submission, metadata standards (e.g., MIxS), and data harmonization practices
- Practical experience with API integration for large-scale data retrieval and regular expression-based text parsing is advantageous
- Familiarity with workflow management systems (Snakemake, Nextflow) and Common Workflow Language (CWL) is advantageous

What does the IOW offer?

The IOW offers you a diverse workplace right on the Baltic Sea coast, with flexible working arrangements, e.g. the possibility of working from home or remotely, company health measures, an annual bonus, a pension plan (VBL), 30 days of vacation per year, time off on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and opportunities for language training in English and German. A very good infrastructure with modern laboratory and office equipment, including our own research vessel, provide the framework for the best working conditions.

How do we promote equal opportunities?

Our job offers are aimed at all people regardless of their age, gender, physical abilities, religion and beliefs, sexual orientation, or social background. Research benefits from a diverse working environment, which is why we have signed the Charter of Diversity. The IOW is committed to actively promoting women in fields where they are underrepresented. For this purpose, the institute has developed a plan to promote equality and has repeatedly been awarded the Total E-Quality award for its commitment. You can find an overview of our measures to support equal opportunities and improve the compatibility of work and family life on our website.

charta der vielfalt
Für Diversity in der Arbeitswelt
UNTERZEICHNET
TOTAL E-QUALITY

Applications from disabled persons with equal professional and personal suitability will be given preference. Please mention the disability or equal status in your letter of application and enclose a copy of the relevant certificates.

How to apply?

Please send us your application documents, including a cover letter outlining your relevant activities and experiences, your CV, copies of your transcripts, and contact details of two references.

We look forward to receiving your application as **a single PDF file**, quoting the **keyword: Bio 02/2026 until 09.12.2026**

by email to: bewerbung.biologie@iow.de

or by mail to:
Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde
Human Resources Department
Seestraße 15
18119 Rostock
Germany

The interviews are expected to take place on 12.01.2027.

Unfortunately, we cannot cover your application and travel costs. Online participation in the job interview is possible.

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Christiane Hassenrück
Working group: Bioinformatics & 'omics data science
Department: Biological Oceanography

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