

Postdoctoral and Graduate Student Opportunities in RNA Biology, Genome Integrity, and Fertility

Haase Lab, National Institutes of Health / NIDDK, Bethesda, MD (USA)

The Haase Lab at the NIH (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, NIDDK) is seeking a **postdoctoral fellow** and a **graduate student** to join our interdisciplinary team investigating the role of small non-coding RNAs in protecting genome integrity in germ cells.

Our research focuses on **PIWI-interacting RNAs (piRNAs)**, a class of small RNAs essential for silencing transposable elements and safeguarding fertility. Similar in function to CRISPR-Cas systems in prokaryotes, piRNAs are a key component of the genome's immune defense in animals. We aim to uncover the molecular mechanisms and evolutionary dynamics of these RNA-guided pathways, with relevance to reproductive health, evolutionary biology, and potential therapeutic applications.

We welcome candidates with backgrounds in any of the following areas:

- **RNA biochemistry**
- **Bioinformatics / Computational biology**
- **Mouse genetics**

Our international lab team brings together diverse expertise and values collaboration, innovation, and scientific curiosity. The NIH campus in Bethesda (just outside Washington, D.C.) offers a vibrant research environment with access to cutting-edge facilities, career development resources, and a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion in science.

Qualifications:

- For the postdoc: Ph.D. in a relevant field (e.g., biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, bioinformatics) and no more than 2 years of postdoctoral training.
- For the student: bachelor's or master's degree or equivalent; applicants must be eligible for a Ph.D. program in their home country (The NIH does not grant degrees but provides an outstanding graduate student experience through partnership programs with universities around the world.)
- Strong communication skills and fluency in English

To apply, please send the following to **Dr. Astrid Haase** at astrid.haase@nih.gov:

- CV
- A detailed letter of interest
- Contact information for three references

Learn more about our research and our team:

 [Haase Lab at the NIH](#)