



# securing tomorrow's resources

## Scientist (f/m/d)

Institute for Resistance Research and Stress Tolerance - based in Quedlinburg, Germany

Application deadline: 22<sup>nd</sup> Mai 2026 for reference number: QLB-RS-WA-04-26

As part of the BMLEH's FutureWheatProtein project—which aims to strengthen the domestic protein supply by ensuring the protein content of winter wheat under future climate conditions—the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) in Quedlinburg is seeking to fill a position as a Research Associate.

### About the project

Against the backdrop of rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels and increasing climate variability, the FutureWheatProtein project investigates whether and how—in addition to stable wheat yields—wheat quality in particular can be achieved even under future climatic conditions. As atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels rise, increases in plant biomass and wheat grain yields are expected; however, protein content simultaneously decreases due to increased carbon uptake and reduced conversion of nitrate-N into leaf protein.

The aim of the project is therefore to maintain the protein supply from wheat, which exhibits high protein content and baking quality even under altered climatic conditions such as higher CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and increasing aridity. To this end, comprehensive studies of the climate impacts on wheat quality, particularly protein yield, as well as the development and evaluation of site-optimized adaptation measures—especially variety selection—for future wheat production under climate change in Germany will be conducted. The project offers the opportunity to pursue a Ph.D. and participate in the training program of the international Research Training Group “Accelerating Crop Genetic Gain.” (<https://www.irtg2843.de/>).

### Your responsibilities

- assessment of the effects of genotype, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, and drought stress on protein content, phenological development, growth, biomass yield, and yield components in wheat;
- identification of varieties that exhibit distinct responses under drought stress conditions with regard to biomass, crude protein, growth, and maturity;
- variety trials using the PlantArray facility under different soil moisture conditions;
- analysis of daily transpiration and the onset of responses to drought stress, such as leaf curling, abscission, and reduced tillering;
- conducting QTL analyses that provide insights into the genetic background of both the response to altered CO<sub>2</sub> conditions and tolerance to drought stress;
- establishment and validation of markers and phenotypic results regarding improved or altered resistance under rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels through field trials using a FACE system. Identification of candidate genes whose sequencing enables the differentiation between tolerant and extremely susceptible genotypes.

### Your profile

- a completed university degree (at least a master's degree, university diploma, or comparable qualification) in agricultural sciences, biology or a comparable scientific discipline;
- experience in studying crop plants under various abiotic stress conditions;
- knowledge of the effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> levels on the metabolism of crop plants is available;
- ideally, initial experience with genome-wide association studies (GWAS) and/or analyses of G×E×M interactions;
- solid knowledge of statistical analyses and practical experience using R and/or Python;
- knowledge of experimental design and analysis;
- valid Class B driver's license.





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### We offer

- a varied, challenging and interesting job in an international working environment.
- a part-time position with a fixed-term contract ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2029 on a third party funded project. The employment contract will be based on the collective agreement for the public service east (TVöD-Ost).
- remuneration according to salary group E 13 TVöD if you have the required qualifications and skills.
- an entry as early as possible.

The Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) is an equal opportunities employer. We live a culture of a diverse and cosmopolitan work environment. The JKI is committed to inclusion. Applications from people with disabilities are therefore expressly welcome and given special consideration in the selection process. The JKI promotes the reconciliation of work and family life and, since 2021, has been holding the **audit workandfamily** certificate ([audit berufundfamilie](#)). Where possible, we offer flexible working time models to reconcile work and family life. More information can be found [here](#).

The JKI subsidizes the Deutschlandticket for its staff, who can purchase it at a reduced subscription price of €23.28.

### More information

Dr. Albrecht Serfling

Phone: +49 (0) 3946 47-3621

E-Mail: [albrecht.serfling@julius-kuehn.de](mailto:albrecht.serfling@julius-kuehn.de)

### Applying online

Please apply via the INTERAMT job portal. To do so, click on the "**Online bewerben**" button on the INTERAMT page. The deadline for your application is 22<sup>nd</sup> Mai 2026.

Please note that the language on the INTERAMT portal is German.

An overview of all vacancies at the Julius Kühn Institute can be found [here](#). Alternatively you can simply scan the QR code at the bottom right corner with your mobile device.

To apply, please register with INTERAMT at <https://www.interamt.de/koop/app/registrieren> or use your login if you are already a registered user. If you have any technical problems or questions regarding your registration, please contact INTERAMT directly at +49 (0) 385 4800-140 or by e-mail: [kontakt@interamt.de](mailto:kontakt@interamt.de).

Make sure to have uploaded all relevant documents for your online application by the application deadline.

If you have an international degree, please also enclose a certificate evaluation from the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) with your application. If you do not yet have a certificate evaluation, you must apply for one if your application is successful. Further information can be found at <https://zab.kmk.org/en/statement-comparability>.

