

# Student Assistant for Projects on Edible Mealworms (35 h/month)

Students of Agricultural Sciences, Biology or related Careers

## Background

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in using insects due to their ability to generate the same amount of protein as traditional farm animals while requiring fewer resources such as land, water, and feed (Kipkoech *et al.*, 2023; Sogari *et al.*, 2023). Moreover, insects serve multiple purposes, such as being used as feed, contributing to the creation of fertilisers, and being utilised in developing diverse cosmetic, industrial, and pharmaceutical products (Patyra & Kwiatek, 2023).

## Why edible insects?

- Contributing to an eco-friendly, protein-rich alternative that's shaping the future of food
- Laying the groundwork for future and long-term research opportunities
- Pioneering solutions in sustainable food and feed systems that can have a lasting global impact

## What will be your task?

- Responsible for basic caring of insect populations
- Assisting in the implementation of the reproduction scheme
- General support in maintaining stable insect populations

## What should you bring?

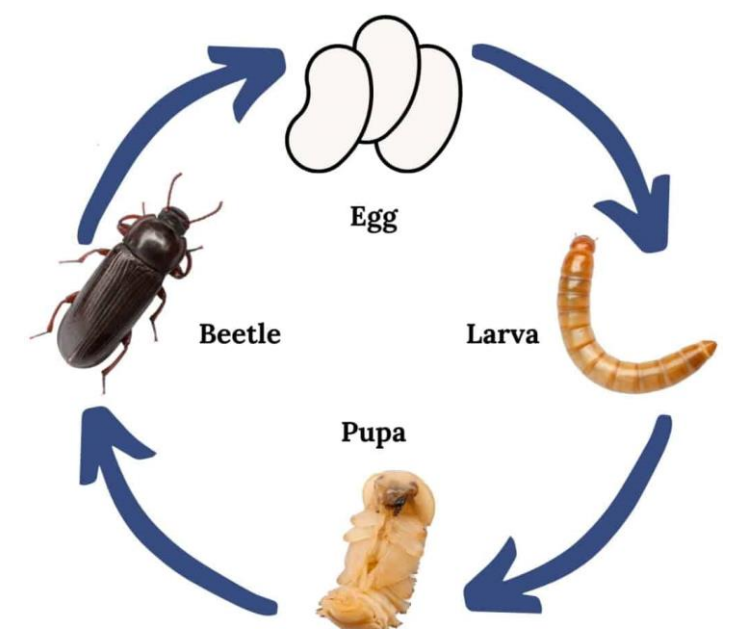
- A background or genuine interest in agriculture
- Curiosity and a passion for learning
- Basic knowledge or a willingness to learn about insect husbandry
- Proficiency in both English and German for communication

## What do we offer you?

- **In-depth Insights** into the principles of insect husbandry
- **Hands-on Research:** Work directly with mealworms for innovative research projects
- **Mentorship:** Guidance from experienced researchers to pursue own project ideas



Image: Osei, 2025



(Neis-Beeckmann, 2021)

## Applications are welcome until 30.08.2025!

### Literatur:

Green Pet Care. (2024, July 18). What can parakeets eat besides bird food? Green Pet Care. [https://www.greenpetcare.com.cn/what-can-parakeets-eat-besides-bird-food\\_1717.html](https://www.greenpetcare.com.cn/what-can-parakeets-eat-besides-bird-food_1717.html)

Kipkoech, C., Jaster-Keller, J., Gottschalk, C., Wesonga, J. M., & Maul, R. (2023). African traditional use of edible insects and challenges towards the future trends of food and feed. *Journal of Insects as Food and Feed*, 9(8), 965-988.

Neis-Beeckmann, P. (2021, April 7). The life cycle of a mealworm from egg, larva, pupa to beetle. BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH. <https://www.biooekonomie-bw.de/en/articles/news/smart-insect-farms-sustainable-protein-sources-future>

Patyra, E., & Kwiatek, K. (2023). Insect meals and insect antimicrobial peptides as an alternative for antibiotics and growth promoters in livestock production. *Pathogens*, 12(6), 854  
Sogari, G., Amato, M., Palmieri, R., Saadoun, J. H., Formici, G., Verneau, F., & Mancini, S. (2023). The future is crawling: Evaluating the potential of insects for food and feed security. *Current research in food science*, 6, 100504.

### Contact:

Dr. Rafael H. Mateus Vargas: [rafael.mateus-vargas@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:rafael.mateus-vargas@uni-goettingen.de)