The BfR independently prepares expert opinions and statements on issues of food, feed and chemical safety and consumer health protection in Germany on the basis of internationally recognised scientific evaluation criteria. It advises the Federal Government and other institutions and interest groups in these areas. The BfR thus makes an important contribution to the protection of human health. You can find information on the remit of the Division here on our homepage.

The following position is available at the Dermatotoxicology Study Centre of the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) from 01.03.2025 or later:

Thesis (Master/Diploma):
Investigation of tattoo pigment (immuno)toxicity

The Dermatotoxicology Study Centre at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment focuses on interdisciplinary research bridging analytics, toxicology, immunology, and clinical research to investigate the health hazards of chemicals in consumer-related products such as jewellery, cosmetics, and tattoo inks. Our research aims to contribute to the long-term reduction of animal testing and improved risk assessment through appropriate cell culture models.

We are looking for a Masters student to join our team to investigate the potential (immuno)toxic effects of tattoo pigments and related substances.

The following tasks are to be worked on:

– Construction of immunocompetent 3D skin models (protocol already established)

– Flow cytometric analysis for various approaches („immunophenotyping“, cytokine analysis, immunological assays…)

– Investigation of pro-/anti-inflammatory polarisation of immune cells

– Quantitative real-time PCR

– Study of phototoxic effects on tattoo-relevant cells (in chemico and in vitro based approaches)

It would be possible to undertake an internship at the Dermatotoxicology Study Centre before starting the Master's thesis The minimum duration would be six months in each case (shorter periods are also possible in combination).

Your profile

– Completed Bachelor's degree in life sciences (biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, molecular life sciences, chemistry or a comparable field) or currently enrolled in a Master's programme in a similar field

– Previous laboratory experience is mandatory (qPCR and cell culture experience is an advantage)

– Basic knowledge in cell biology and immunology

– Very good Knowledge of written and spoken English

– A motivated and committed approach to work

We offer a modern, well-equipped laboratory, collaborative research work in an interdisciplinary environment and comprehensive support directly within the team.

Application process

Have we piqued your interest and would you like to delve deeper into the fascinating world of tattooing agents in terms of immunotoxicity and research?

Then please apply by e-mail **(lena.panse@bfr.bund.de)** with the subject line **Application for thesis: tattoo pigment**. Please attach a short letter of motivation, CV, certificates and references (BSc) and contact details of at least one reference.

Please address any questions about the area of responsibility to:
Lena Panse: T +49 30 18412-57008
E-Mail: lena.panse@bfr.bund.de

Dr. Ines Schreiver: T +49 30 18412-57000
E-Mail: Ines.Schreiver@bfr.bund.de

You will find more information on our homepage: bfr.bund.de/de/en/working_at_the_bfr

The BfR welcomes applications from people of all nationalities.

Zertifikat seit 2009 audit berufundfamilie

The BfR is an innovative scientific institute offering family-friendly working conditions. for which it was awarded the “audit berufundfamilie®” (work and family) certificate. The BfR guarantees equal career opportunities for women and men. In the case of equal suitability, severely disabled applicants will be given preferential consideration and are only required to have a minimum level of physical suitability.