



EBERHARD KARLS  
UNIVERSITÄT  
TÜBINGEN



### CSC-Tübingen PhD Scholarship Program

2026/2027 application round: prospective PhD positions at the University of Tübingen

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| Faculty:                             | Medical Faculty                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Institute / Section / Subject:       | Institute for Medical Virology and Epidemiology of Viral Diseases                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Supervising Professor(s):            | Prof. Dr. Daniel Sauter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| About the Supervisor(s):             | Research in the Sauter lab focuses on the interplay and co-evolution of antiviral immunity with viruses and retroelements. The research group has a strong interest in elucidating innate immune responses against HIV, and the mechanisms that the virus has evolved to evade them. More information on the supervisor and the host lab can be found <a href="#">here</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Specification/Project title:         | "MST Kinases in NF-κB Signaling and HIV Infection"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Topic Description:                   | NF-κB is a central regulator of immune responses and plays a key role in coordinating cellular defenses against infection. This project aims to uncover how MST kinases contribute to the regulation of NF-κB signaling and how their function is controlled in the context of HIV infection. We will investigate whether and how MST kinases modulate NF-κB activation. A particular focus will be placed on how HIV manipulates MST function, including through changes in protein ubiquitination and kinase activity. By combining cell biological and virological approaches, the project will provide new insights into the interplay between host signaling and viral immune evasion, potentially revealing novel mechanisms by which HIV reshapes cellular immune responses. |
| Intended Degree:                     | PhD Exp. Med. / Dr. rer. nat.; possible integration into 'The Interfaculty Graduate School of Infection Biology and Microbiology ( <a href="#">IGIM</a> )'                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Type of the PhD Study:               | Full-time (complete doctoral studies at the University of Tübingen)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Required Degrees and Qualifications: | Master degree in Biology, Biochemistry, Infection biology, Molecular Medicine, or related degrees; practical expertise in infection biology, immunobiology, HIV/AIDS research is a plus. A strong theoretical knowledge in cell biology and immunology is mandatory.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Language Requirements:               | Excellent oral and written communication skills in English are mandatory.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Notes:                               | The project involves work with infectious viruses under biosafety level 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |