

Dr. Simon Ripperger

- Biology (Diploma) at Ulm University: 2002 – 2008 (incl. 1 year at the Universidad de Costa Rica)
- PhD (Biology) at Ulm University : 2010 – 2014
- Postdoc at the Natural History Museum (Berlin): 2014 – 2019
- Postdoc at the Ohio State University: 2019 – 2021
- Research assistant at the Bavarian State Office for the Environment: since 2021
→ from 2026 Deputy Head of Division
- Further training: Databases & SQL (database language), methods for recording small mammals
- Awards: Research Prize from the German Wildlife Foundation (2021)



„My focus on bats began in Ulm and has been a central theme throughout my career; I am currently responsible for mammal species conservation in Bavaria. My broad ecology education at the university contributed to this, and my PhD thesis also dealt with a nature conservation topic. In general, my PhD thesis and academic career have helped me to work efficiently, structure projects, grasp complex issues and understand topics outside my field of expertise. Over the years, you also learn many methods, from IT (programming) to monitoring, which help you in your everyday work.“

Kara Grudzus

- B.Sc. & M.Sc. Biology at Ulm University: 2011 – 2018
- Internship at MVZ genetikum GmbH (Neu-Ulm): 2019
- Part-time job at the Tiergarten Ulm (Guided tours at weekends): since 2019
- Scientific Assistant at MVZ genetikum GmbH (Neu-Ulm): since 2020



„My studies gave me a solid foundation for both jobs and repeatedly showed me how versatile Biology is. But of course, there are some things that cannot be taught at university. I am also continuously expanding my knowledge in both areas of work. The perfect job for the course structure you choose during your studies is probably rare, so you shouldn't be afraid to think outside the box and also get an idea of professions that are a little outside the focus of your studies, e.g. through internships. My studies deepened my enthusiasm for Biology, helped me to develop projects on my own and to work with others in a team to achieve common goals. During my studies, I really enjoyed being able to do a lot of practical work and having the opportunity to get involved, experiment and discover the exciting worlds that Biology has to offer in the various courses and excursions.”

Dr. Daniel Einfalt

- Mechatronics training: 2000 – 2004
- B.Sc. & M.Sc. Biology at Ulm University: 2007 – 2012
- PhD (Biology) at Ulm University : 2013 – 2017
- Head of the Research and Teaching Distillery Working Group, University of Hohenheim: 2017 - 2024
- Curator of the Botanical Garden Ulm: since 2024
- Further training: Leadership management, project management, certificate in university teaching BW



„My studies influenced my professional career, primarily by helping me realise what didn't really appeal to me in the broad training portfolio. I enjoyed choosing the topics that inspired me. For example, I went to Cottbus for three months to write my Bachelor's thesis because I found the most exciting topic for me there. Excursions to the local Alps also appealed to me more than a semester in the tropics.“