

Doctoral researcher



Anika Kuckertz has started her doctoral research in the group Architecture and Brain Function at INM-1 of Forschungszentrum Jülich in 2020.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Working on my doctoral thesis
- Supporting everyday laboratory work as a research assistant

A typical day at work

“My working day is usually divided into laboratory and office work. Before I perform a receptor autoradiographic binding experiment, all the necessary equipment and materials need to be available. The relevant information for preparing, performing and generating the results of the experiment can be found in the respective protocols (standard operation procedures). During the preparation of the experiment, I set up the experimental series and prepare the required solutions/buffers. It is important that the experiment is carried out according to the protocol in order to ensure comparability with other experiments. Any deviations must be clearly documented. It is also important to leave the laboratory tidy and clean. I calculate and generate the experimental results on the computer with the help of various programmes (e.g., MatLab, Excel). As part of my doctoral thesis, I want to create a three-dimensional atlas of the rat brain. To do this, I am drawing and naming the individual brain regions in the entire rat brain based on the neurotransmitter receptors. These will be visualised by receptor autoradiography and subsequently quantified on the computer.”

Required skills

- Good time management and self-organisation, as some work steps run in parallel and are nested within each other to enable effective work
- The ability to work in a team
- Perseverance and self-motivation when experiments do not work and you have to start again after troubleshooting

- IT skills (Microsoft Office, basic knowledge of MatLab)
- The ability to link complex biological relationships and to question the results attentively

Perks of the job

“What I like most about my job is how versatile it is.”

A pleasant place of work

“My colleagues are always really supportive, making the working atmosphere very pleasant. In addition to numerous training opportunities, there are also some leisure activities that I find very good.”

Work-life balance

„Due to the flexible working hours and the option to work from home, my private life is not restricted.”