"Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution" (Dobzhansky, 1973). Today, evolutionary biology often involves the analysis of an unprecedented amount of information and supports many other disciplines, such as medicine (evolutionary medicine), behavioral biology (evolutionary psychology), ecology, and information transfer. Scientists have to analyze large datasets, which requires computational programming skills to design and apply own ideas into customized algorithms.

In this intensive 16 days course, students will learn how to survive in a Linux environment, get hands-on experience in two widely used programming languages (Perl and R), and statistical data analysis. The classes will be given by experts in the field and consist of lectures and exercises with the computer. The aim of the course is to provide the students with the necessary background and skills to perform computational analyses with a focus on solving research questions related to genomics and evolution. The philosophy of the course will be “learning by doing”, which means that the computational skills will be taught using examples and real data from evolutionary biology for the exercises. During the course, students will also propose projects of their own interest and perform them as final projects in small groups under the supervision of a teaching assistant. This summer school is open for students from all countries and targeted toward PhD students and postdocs of evolutionary biology or related research fields with no or little programming experience who want to become proficient in computational evolutionary biology in a couple of weeks.

The course will take place at the University Leipzig, which is conveniently located in the center of the city. Leipzig is a modern city with many students, an international flair, and an established cultural scene. You can find here many parks and exciting night life. Leipzig is only about one hour away from Berlin and three hours away from Prague.

For more information about the course and how to apply, see: http://evop.bioinf.uni-leipzig.de

This course is supported by the Volkswagen Foundation.