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**Microplastics in the water column of the Rhine river: a year-long monitoring study**  
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Previous MGU research has thoroughly characterized microplastic pollution in surface waters of the Rhine—and to a lesser extent pollution in its benthic sediments. Numerous similar surveys have been published for other rivers globally, but despite scientific discussion about microplastic removal rates from surface waters, knowledge about riverine microplastic concentrations in the water column remain scarce. In the current project, we are thus investigating what the microplastic concentrations in the water column of the Rhine River near Basel are. This project is running in collaboration with the Rhine Monitoring Station (Rheinüberwachungsstation, Weil am Rhein), where river water can be sampled through five permanently installed sampling stations covering the entire river profile shore-shore. Through analyzing samples taken in the course of at least one year, we for instance ask what microplastics polymer types are present in the water column, and whether seasonal trends emerge?