The Center for Transformative Sciences is currently seeking a

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Transformative Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research

(Reference code 206)

Extent of employment: 40 hours per week
Duration of employment: 1st of February 2027, limited to 31st of January 2033

Allocation in compliance with the Collective Agreement for University Staff to job group: B1 lit. b
Gross monthly salary: (depending on previous eligible experience) at least: € 5.079,50 (payable 14 times per year)

About the position

The Professorship of Transformative Sustainability Science at Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU University Vienna) investigates how research can contribute to sustainability transformations and how knowledge, practices and institutions shape transformative change. The team investigates and supports socio-ecological and socio-technological transformation processes at organizational, regional and societal levels. It provides an experimental space for knowledge co-production and methodological innovation, bringing together perspectives from sustainability science, science and technology studies (STS), and transdisciplinary research.

The Professorship is part of BOKU's new Centre for Transformative Sciences and the Area of Transformative Sustainability Research and Citizen Science, offering an interdisciplinary environment for research on transformative sciences. The Centre connects different scientific fields, institutional contexts and societal actors and supports research, teaching and third mission initiatives.

The research programme of the Professorship focuses particularly on culture and sustainable transformations, transformative methods and expertise, and multi-Level governance, policy, and justice. A central interest is understanding how research processes, forms of knowledge and institutional arrangements can enable, shape and assess transformative change.

We are seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Researcher to contribute to this research programme and to the development of the Professorship and Centre. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to:

- Develop an independent research profile within a growing research programme in transformative sciences
- Contribute to the development of a newly established Centre and its national and international networks
- Collaborate across disciplinary boundaries and with societal actors
- Develop, test and implement innovative approaches to transformative transdisciplinary research
- Contribute to teaching and the development of new educational formats at BOKU
- Participate in an international research environment at BOKU University in Vienna

Task and Focus Area

- Research in Transformative Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research, with a focus on the design, coordination and implementation of transformative transdisciplinary research processes addressing socio-ecological and socio-technological sustainability transformations; the development and application of transdisciplinary methods for knowledge co-production and collaboration between scientific and societal actors; and the assessment of the contributions, outcomes and impacts of transformative research across different scientific and societal contexts
- Publication activities in high-quality international peer-reviewed journals and other relevant scientific outlets
- Acquisition and management of competitively funded national and international research projects
- Collaboration with academic and societal partners, including leadership and coordination in the co-production of knowledge and knowledge transfer across and beyond the five areas of the Centre
- Teaching at BOKU University and supervision or co-supervision of theses within the scope of the applicable regulations
- Contribution to the intellectual and organizational development of the Professorship and the Centre for Transformative Sciences

Required skills and qualifications

- Doctorate degree / PhD in a relevant field of sustainability science, environmental humanities or a related discipline
- Language skills: German B1 or the willingness to acquire it within 2 years, excellent command of English

- Strong knowledge of and experience in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and research on sustainability transformations
- Demonstrated experience with transformative research and transdisciplinary research methods and in empirical research methods
- An excellent publication record appropriate to the career stage
- The ability to conduct and lead independent research while working effectively in collaborative research environments
- Experience in university teaching and supervision
- Excellent communication, organizational and integrative skills

Desirable skills and qualifications

- Experience in leading and conducting research in different world regions
- Knowledge of STS, cultural approaches to sustainability, or related fields
- Experience in research-on-research, meta-research, evaluation or impact assessment

Applications can be submitted until: 15th of December 2026

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna seeks to increase the number of its female faculty and staff members. Therefore qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply. In case of equal qualification, female candidates will be given preference unless reasons specific to an individual male candidate tilt the balance in his favour.

People with disabilities and appropriate qualifications are specifically encouraged to apply.

Please send your application in English as one PDF file (surname_first name.pdf) with the information listed below to HR Management, BOKU University, Peter-Jordan-Straße 70, 1190 Vienna; E-Mail: recruiting@boku.ac.at. **(Reference code: 206)**

Please include the following documents with your applications:

- Brief explanation of why you believe you are particularly suited to this position (max. 1 A4 page)
- CV including ORCID and details of practice-based, professional, teaching and research activities
- Draft concept of your research plan; including a description of your planned areas of specialization (max. 2 A4 pages)
- List of publications (peer-reviewed/non-peer-reviewed), lectures and research projects
- Copies of 3 recent publications that you consider particularly important

For further information on this position, please contact Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bianca Vienni-Baptista, Professor of Transformative Sustainability Science, BOKU University, e-mail: bianca.vienni@boku.ac.at

We regret that we cannot reimburse applicants travel and lodging expenses incurred as part of the selection and hiring process.

www.boku.ac.at