



The Department of Forest and Soil Sciences, Institute of Soil Research is currently seeking a

Postgraduate Research Associate (Project Employment)

Reference code: 161

Extent of employment: 30 Hours per Week
Duration of employment: 1st of January 2019 limited to 31st of December 2021

Workplace: UFT Tulln

Gross monthly salary and pay grade in terms of collective agreement
for university staff (payable 14 times per year): B1, €2.096,00

Position profile

We are seeking a motivated PhD student to work in the DFG-funded project “The mystery of root exudation – new insights into ecologically significant root exudation sampling”. This project runs within the German priority program 2089 that brings together 25 research groups from Germany and Austria to work on revealing rhizosphere spatiotemporal organization, which is considered to be a key to rhizosphere functioning (see also: <http://www.ufz.de/spprhizosphere/>). Root exudates are the main drivers of rhizosphere processes – however in the past, the majority of studies either treated exudation as a black box or investigated root exudation in hydroponic culture, mostly focusing on individual exudate compounds or specific compound classes. Despite the operational benefit of hydroponics, the question remains how ecologically relevant exudation patterns obtained under hydroponic conditions are compared to soil environments.

Within this priority program, we aim to test and compare different root exudation sampling techniques in the laboratory and in the field (Bad Lauchstädt, Germany) combined with LC-MS/MS based metabolomics fingerprinting analysis and to unravel potential biases introduced by the different experimental approaches. Joint experiments with other PP members investigating different biological, biochemical and physicochemical parameters will provide a unique opportunity to gain new insights into the spatio-temporal organization of rhizosphere processes at a yet unseen depth.

Required skills and qualifications

- MSc in Agriculture, Biology, Plant Sciences, Soil Science, Chemistry or related fields

Desirable skills and qualifications

- Experience with lab work, chemical analysis (mass spectrometry), data processing; knowledge on statistics is welcome
- Very good skills in communication / English language skills
- Ability to work independently in an interdisciplinary team
- Stress resilience, reliability
- Driving license

Applications can be submitted until: 20th of November 2018

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.

Please send your job application to Personnel department, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, 1190 Vienna, Peter-Jordan-Straße 70; E-Mail: kerstin.buchmueller@boku.ac.at. (**Reference code: 161**)

Questions relating to the positions should be sent to: Dr. Eva Oburger, eva.oburger@boku.ac.at.

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

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