

The Department of Crop Sciences, Institute of Agronomy is currently seeking a

## **Postgraduate Research Associate**

### **Project employment**

(Reference code: 94)

Extent of employment: 40 hours per week  
Duration of employment: 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2021, limited to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024

Workplace: UFT-Tulln, 3430 Tulln, Konrad-Lorenz-Straße 24

Gross monthly salary and pay grade in terms of collective agreement for university staff (payable 14 times per year): B1, € 2.971,50

The PhD student will participate in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) European Innovative Training Network ReCaP (Capture, Recycling and Societal Management of Phosphorus in the Environment) within the Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Commission (Agreement No. 956454). Within this project the successful candidate will hold a three-year PhD position in plant nutrition and nutrient cycling at the Institute of Agronomy, Department of Crop Sciences of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria. The title of the research project is “Tailored cover crop mixtures for efficient mobilization of soil legacy P”.

#### **The specific tasks of the position are**

- Characterize cover crop species and mixtures for their phosphorus solubilization efficiency
- Compose and test cover crop mixtures with the aim of increasing the availability of soil P for the following crop
- Perform research stays at project partner institutions during secondments of up to 3 months duration
- Take part in the frequent student training activities within the ReCaP project
- Publish the results in peer-reviewed scientific journals

#### **Required skills and qualifications**

- Master's degree in Crop Sciences, Soil Science, Agriculture or other equivalent university degree
- Excellent command of English (orally and written)
- Stress resilience, reliability
- Social- and teamworking skills
- Appropriate driving license to drive cars in Austria (driving license B)

#### **Desirable skills and qualifications**

- Experience in scientific writing
- Experience in plant nutrition, nutrient cycling and soil science research

Applications can be submitted until: 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021

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 job application incl.

- motivation letter (describing your specific interest, motivation and qualifications for the project)
- Curriculum vitae including personal contact information and previous employment
- A list of scientific publications on which the applicant wishes to rely (if available)
- Two letters of recommendation
- A letter, signed by the candidate, confirming that:
  - The candidate has not resided in Austria for more than 12 months in the last 3 years
  - The candidate is an early-stage researcher (i.e. in the first four years of research career and do not have a doctoral degree)
  - The candidate holds a master's degree in a relevant discipline, or will receive this before appointment date

to Personnel department, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Peter-Jordan-Straße 70, 1190 Vienna; E-Mail: [kerstin.buchmueller@boku.ac.at](mailto:kerstin.buchmueller@boku.ac.at). (**Reference code: 94**)

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

[www.boku.ac.at](http://www.boku.ac.at)

---

### **Project background**

In this PhD project, the successful candidate will investigate the potential of cover crops for rendering inaccessible soil P fractions accessible for plant production. Therefore, cover crop mixtures will be optimized for high P solubilization and uptake capacity, aiming at enhancing P cycling in the soil- cover crop – cash crop system.

The experimental work comprises of testing cover crop species and species mixtures in greenhouse experiments and conducting a field experiment with the best performing mixtures. The successful candidate will be trained in and perform soil and plant chemical analyses for this purpose.

Please review the main duties for all ESR positions by visiting the Recap website: <https://www.sdu.dk/en/forskning/recap/about>.

### **Early Stage Researchers**

Must be in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and not yet have been awarded a doctorate. This 4-year period is measured from the date of obtaining the degree which would formally entitle them to embark on a doctorate, excluding military, parental, sick leave, etc.

### **Mobility Rule**

Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the hosting institution (Austria) for more than 12 months in the last 3 years immediately before the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are exempt/excluded.

The Recap MSCA-ITN Training Network: Recap will train a group of 15 PhD students (Early Stage Researchers) to become Phosphorus specialist within the Global Phosphorus Challenge in a way that is socially, economically, and environmentally acceptable. This application is for the project ESR8: Tailored cover crop mixtures for efficient mobilization of soil legacy P.

For further details, visit the Recap website: <https://sdu.dk/en/forskning/recap/about>

During the application process, statistical information about the genders of applicants will be shared with the coordinating institution (University of Southern Denmark) in order to ensure a balanced recruitment process.

Incomplete applications and applications received after the deadline will neither be considered nor evaluated. We may use shortlisting in this process. Data collected from candidates will be used for recruitment purposes only and will not be shared outside of the RecaP consortium unless authorized by the applicant.

The RecaP website includes more detailed information about recruitment and selection.

RecaP values diversity, and does not discriminate based on gender, religion, marital status, age or cultural background. Additionally, RecaP seeks to increase the number of women in scientific areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.

For further information about this position or the University of Natural Resources and Life Science, Vienna please contact Dr. Jakob Santner at [jakob.santner@boku.ac.at](mailto:jakob.santner@boku.ac.at).

For further information about the RecaP project, please contact project manager Jake Reardon at [jare@sdu.dk](mailto:jare@sdu.dk).