

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

Postgraduate Research Associate project employment

(Reference code: 55)

Extent of employment: 30 hours per week
Duration of employment: April 2022, limited to 31st of March 2025

Workplace: 1190 Vienna, Peter-Jordan-Street 82

Gross monthly salary and pay grade in terms of collective agreement for university staff (payable 14 times per year): B1, € 2.294,00

Responsibilities

The activities are integrated in the Waldfond project "Securing the Sustainability of Forest Soil Functions via Optimized Harvesting Technologies" (Wf-Project-HoBo), WP 5: "Habitat Function - Plant Communities, Soil Organisms". The general aim of the project is to create a database for assessing the effects of different harvesting technologies on forest sites with soils susceptible to compaction. WP 5 will particularly investigate the effects on the habitat functional and soil as "rooting space". The project is carried out in close cooperation with other organisational units of BOKU, Austrian Federal Forests (ÖBf), and in particular the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW).

For this work package the following tasks have to identified:

- Vegetation surveys (mosses to grasses) of differently aged and differently frequented skidder trails to determine the long-term effects on the diversity of the soil flora
- Determination of morphological and physiological root traits and the degree of ectomycorrhization as a function of soil density
- Determination of abundance and functional composition of the soil microbiome
- Establishment of biological soil remediation experiments with tree species and grasses (on small plots)
- Investigation of the tree species-specific recolonization ability of recent skid trails by roots
- Statistical analysis of the results, especially in R
- Publication of the results in scientific journals and for target groups of the Austrian forestry sector
- Presentation of the results, e.g. at conferences
- Contribution to the preparation of interim and final reports
- Co-supervision of bachelor and master theses

Required skills and qualifications

- Diploma degree in Forest Science, Biology or other equivalent university degree
- In-depth knowledge of geobotanical or pedological methods, as well as statistical data analysis
- Willingness to travel throughout Austria and do field work
- Excellent written and spoken English, German language skills are an asset
- Willingness and ability to publish in English
- Class B driving licence

Desirable skills and qualifications

- Willingness to write a dissertation at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna is desired
- High motivation, organisational talent, flexibility
- Team and communication skills, social competence

Applications can be submitted until: 30th of March 2022

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
- CV
- Names of two references

in one PDF-file to Personnel department, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Peter-Jordan-Straße 70, 1190 Vienna; E-Mail: kerstin.buchmueller@boku.ac.at. **(Reference code: 55)**

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

www.boku.ac.at