

Externe Stellenausschreibung Reg.-Nr. 5-358/23-D

Modern, interconnected, conscious of tradition: Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) is the oldest and largest university in the State of Saxony-Anhalt with a history dating back more than 500 years. Today more than 20,000 students are enrolled at the university. MLU's core research areas are in the nanosciences and biosciences, the Enlightenment, as well as in social and cultural research. The university is also home to a range of small disciplines, some of which can be found nowhere else in Germany. The university has excellent national and international ties, and works closely together with leading research institutes, industry, and more than 250 universities around the world.

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), offers the following temporary position (18 months), starting as soon as possible (preferably 1 April 2023):

PhD Researcher within a DFG-funded project BioNeCS (m-f-d)

(Land use and biodiversity determine the contribution of microbial necromass to soil carbon storage)

as part-time employment (65%).

The salary will be up to accordance with the German Public Service salary scale (TV-L 13), if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled. The work place will be in at MLU Halle. The position is limited to 18 months, with possible employment for another 18 months thereafter.

Tasks:

- Research on how land use and management of grasslands and forests affect microbial communities and their functional potentials (i.e., the presence of carbon and nutrient cycling genes) as well as the amounts microbial-derived soil organic matter
- Contribution to a joint soil sampling campaign in three German regions within the framework of the DFG-funded priority program Biodiversity Exploratories (<http://www.biodiversity-exploratories.de/>) in spring 2023
- preparation and processing of soil samples for subsequent analyses, including density fractionation
- soil chemical analyses, in particular of microbial biomass biomarker and stable isotopes
- accessing microbial communities using molecular tools and amplicon sequencing
- bioinformatical and statistical downstream processing of the sequencing data
- presenting and publishing of results on international conferences and in international journals

Requirements:

- a scientific University degree (Diploma/ M.Sc.) in geocology, biogeosciences, environmental sciences, forestry, physical geography, biology, or related fields of science
- highly motivated and team-oriented
- broad interest in the drivers of soil carbon storage and turnover, and how those are linked to microbial composition, activity, and mineralogy
- basic skills in soil chemical and molecular analyses
- very good oral and written communication skills in English
- good statistical and analysis skills
- drivers licence B



The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg gives priority to applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants with a degree that was not obtained at a German higher education institution must submit a Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications from the Central Office for Foreign Education (Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen) to prove equivalence. This Statement can also be submitted after successful completion of the hiring process.

For queries about the research project please contact Dr. Klaus Kaiser (klaus.kaiser@landw-uni-halle.de). Please submit your full electronic application dossier in English with registration number 5-358/23-D until **31 January 2023**.

Electronic applications should be submitted directly to the project's responsible principal investigators: Dr. Klaus Kaiser (klaus.kaiser@landw-uni-halle.de) and. Applications should include a motivation letter tailored to the research project, a curriculum vitae, a digital copy of Master's degree/diploma, a publication record, and names of two senior scientists who could serve as possible references.

Application costs will not be reimbursed.