



## PhD Position (f/m/x) on the Role of Microbial Plant Pathogens on Soil Biodiversity/ Ecosystem Functioning in the DFG Research Unit JENA EXPERIMENT

Institute of Zoology | Terrestrial Ecology

We are one of the largest and oldest universities in Europe and one of the most important employers in our region. Our broad range of subjects, the dynamic development of our main research areas and our central location in Cologne make us attractive for students and researchers from around the world. We offer a wide range of career opportunities in science, technology, and administration.

Microbial plant pathogens play important roles in biodiversity-ecosystem function relationships. This project investigates the roles of Oomycetes and Phytomyxea (Protists) in combination with drought on plant performance within gradients of increasing plant diversity in the Jena Experiment (<http://www.the-jena-experiment.de/>).

### YOUR TASKS

- » Analyses of pathogen communities by Illumina high-throughput sequencing and metatranscriptomics
- » Analysis of the expression of plant functional genes in response to pathogens
- » Design of qPCR primers for specific Oomycota (Stramenopiles) and Phytomyxea (Rhizaria)
- » Bioinformatics and statistics
- » Fieldwork in the Jena Experiment
- » Preparation of project reports; representation and presentation of the project in conferences
- » Writing high-quality publications on the project content

### YOUR PROFILE

- » Master degree in Biology/Microbiology/Plant Pathology with a thorough knowledge of molecular biology
- » Basic knowledge of bioinformatics and statistics
- » Knowledge of protistology, plant pathology, or molecular microbiology
- » Publication experience, excellent written and oral presentation skills
- » Outstanding command of spoken and written German and English
- » Willingness to travel (Jena experimental site, project meetings, conferences)
- » Driving license for cars

### WE OFFER

- » Integration into a high-ranking international research team
- » A diverse working environment with equal opportunities
- » Support in balancing work and family life
- » Flexible working time models
- » Extensive advanced training opportunities
- » Occupational health management offers

The University of Cologne is committed to equal opportunities and diversity. Women are especially encouraged to apply and will be considered preferentially in accordance with the Gender Equality Act of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (LGG NRW). We also expressly welcome applications from people with mild/moderate/severe disabilities or special needs.

The position is available from April 2024 on a part-time basis (25,89 hours per week). The position is limited to 4 years. If the applicant meets the relevant wage requirements and personal qualifications, the salary is based on remuneration group 13 TV-L of the pay scale for the German public sector.

Please apply online with proof of the required qualifications without a photo to : <https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de>. The reference number is Wiss2310-09. The application deadline is 19.11.2023.