

Research Associate (m/f/d) (E13) in Microbiology – Forest Ecosystems under Drought Stress

At the **Coburg University of Applied Sciences and Arts**, Faculty of Applied Natural Sciences and Health, **Institute for Bioanalysis**, a position as

Research Associate (m/f/d) (E13) in Microbiology – Forest Ecosystems under Drought Stress

is available starting **December 1, 2026, or later**.

Your Responsibilities

As part of the research project **"WAMMI"**, funded by the **German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Homeland Affairs**, we investigate rhizosphere microbiomes in mixed oak-beech forests along species-mixture gradients at both mesic and drought-prone sites.

Your tasks will include soil sampling in coordination with root analyses, determination of soil physical parameters and plant-available water-holding capacity, as well as nucleic acid extraction and shotgun metagenomic sequencing. You will perform bioinformatic and multivariate analyses of sequencing data, characterize mycorrhizal types, plant growth-promoting microorganisms, and stress mediators, and relate microbial datasets to parameters of water balance and tree growth.

In a greenhouse pot experiment, we compare irrigation regimes, tree species, and species-mixture variants using plant, root, and microbiome parameters. In addition, you will curate and annotate WAMMI datasets for AI-based analyses and compare models investigating tree growth, water consumption, root development, and microbiome dynamics.

The overall goal is to identify key microorganisms and biomarkers associated with drought stress resilience, derive recommendations for forest management, and publish our results in international scientific journals.

Your Qualifications

- Completed university degree (Master's or equivalent) in a life sciences discipline with a biological focus (e.g., Bioanalytics, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Forest Sciences, or related fields)
- Solid theoretical knowledge of microbiology and molecular biology
- Experience in multivariate analysis of microbial sequencing datasets
- Practical experience in microbiological and molecular biology laboratory work, as well as greenhouse and fieldwork
- Excellent written and spoken English skills
- Strong teamwork skills, flexibility, reliability, and excellent communication and organizational abilities, including the ability to work effectively with students and researchers
- Proficiency in standard Microsoft Office applications

We Offer

The position is a **65% part-time appointment** in accordance with **TV-L pay grade E13** and is initially funded until **November 30, 2029**.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to pursue a **doctoral degree (PhD)** through the university's **Analytics4Health Doctoral Research Center**.

Application Procedure

Please apply **exclusively online** via the application portal and submit the customary application documents (cover letter, curriculum vitae, degree certificates, and supporting documents detailing your professional background) **no later than November 15, 2026**.

Applications submitted by mail or email cannot be considered. Applications received after the deadline cannot be accepted.

Applicants with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration in cases of essentially equal suitability, qualifications, and professional performance.

For applicants holding foreign university degrees, a credential evaluation issued by the **Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB)** is required for assessment of eligibility: https://www.kmk.org/zab/zentralstelle-fuer-auslaendisches-bildungswesen

Coburg University of Applied Sciences and Arts is committed to promoting equal opportunities for women in academia and therefore particularly welcomes applications from women.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

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