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Bayreuth Center of Ecology
and Environmental Research

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The newly established Junior Research Group “Soil Biogeochemistry” at the University of Bayreuth funded by the German Research Foundation through the Emmy Noether Program offers

Three PhD positions

All three positions will be limited to three years. Earliest possible start is September 1, 2016. The salary is in accordance with the German Public Service salary scale (TV-L E13) with 65% of the regular working hours.

Position A and B: Element cycling in grassland soils

The project will investigate the effect of altered nitrogen and phosphorus availability on element cycling in grasslands based on field experiments on several continents. The responsibility of the doctoral researcher A will be to determine processes of soil element cycling such as mineralization processes, nitrogen fixation and phosphorus solubilization. The responsibility of the doctoral researcher B will be to determine turnover times of elements, use efficiencies and microbial community composition.

Position C: Microbial phosphorus cycling in forest soils

The project is part of the priority program “Ecosystem nutrition” (SPP1685) funded by the German Research Foundation. The responsibility of the doctoral researcher C will be to determine phosphorus turnover in the microbial biomass and phosphorus solubilization in beech forest soils in Germany.

Qualifications

- Successfully completed Master's degree in (micro)biology, geoecology, soil science, environmental sciences or similar
- Strong research interest in ecosystem element cycling and/or microbial ecophysiology
- Experience in lab work (soil science, environmental microbiology, ecophysiology)
- Experience in working with isotopes and in conducting incubation experiments is desirable
- Ability to conduct soil sampling campaigns (also abroad in case of position A and B)
- Proficiency in English and good writing skills

The project will be based at the University of Bayreuth. The University of Bayreuth is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply as they are underrepresented in this field. Disabled persons with equivalent aptitude will be favored.

Please send your application with the usual documents (application letter, CV, copies of records of your BSc and MSc, documents showing research experience if applicable, and contact information of two references) in electronic form as a single pdf-file to Dr. Marie Spohn (marie.spohn@uni-bayreuth.de). Please indicate which of the three positions you are interested in most. Review of applications will start on June 15, 2016, and will continue until the positions are filled.