



## MSc Thesis Opportunity: Plant survival strategies – how do plants cope with global environmental change?

### Description:

**Phenotypic plasticity enables plants to cope with rapidly changing environments, yet its limits under combined stressors remain poorly understood.**

This thesis explores how rising temperatures and nitrogen availability jointly shape the plasticity in plant resource-use strategies. **You will analyze plant functional traits and related characteristics in thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) genotypes grown in various temperature and nitrogen settings.** The thesis offers the opportunity to uncover trade-offs in plant resource use and interpret them in an eco-evolutionary and plant functional framework.

### Requirements:

- MSc student in Ecology or Molecular Biology
- Flexible working times
- Interest in inter-disciplinary concepts

### Tasks:

- Set-up and conduct a plasticity experiment in climate cabinets
- Extensive phenotyping of plant functional traits
- Data analysis with R

### Start & Duration:

- Start September 2026 (flexible)
- Six months (full-time) for entire MSc thesis

### What we offer:

- Work in an international research setting
- Research on the intersection of ecology and molecular functional biology
- Participation in interdisciplinary research project (CRC “Phenotypic Plasticity in Plants”)

**Are you interested or have questions? Contact:** Dr. Vera Hesen (vera.hesen@uni-potsdam.de)