Job Announcement

Young, modern, and research oriented... the University of Potsdam has firmly established itself within the scientific landscape since its founding in 1991. Nationally and internationally renowned scientists teach and perform research here at Brandenburg's largest university. The University of Potsdam is successful in acquiring third-party funds, delivers outstanding performance in technology and knowledge transfer, and has a very service-oriented administration. With about 21,000 students studying at three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and Golm – the University of Potsdam is a prominent economic factor and engine of development for the region. The University of Potsdam has a total of over 3,000 faculty and staff members and is located in one of Germany’s most scenic areas.

The University of Potsdam, Faculty of Science, Institute of Biochemistry and Biology, Plant Ecology and Conservation Biology invites applications for the following position in the DFG-funded Research Training Group RTG 2118/2 ‘Integrating Biodiversity Research with Movement Ecology in Dynamic Agricultural Landscapes [BioMove]’ (Speaker: Prof. Dr. Florian Jeltsch)

Academic Staff Member
Postdoc
Requisition No.: 379/2020

Ecological Modelling

The position is available from January 01, 2021. The salary is determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13 Ost). The position is for 40 hours per week (100% of a full-time contract). This is a temporary position limited to a term of 45 months in accordance with Section 2 subsection 1 of the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Law (WissZeitVG).

The ongoing Research Training Group BioMove (started 2015) links innovative individual research projects that overcome the apparent gap between movement ecology and biodiversity research, employing a joint conceptual framework. It strategically combines empirical, experimental and modelling approaches to advance our mechanistic understanding of how organismic movement shapes biodiversity patterns and how biodiversity patterns feed back on the active and passive movement of organisms. This will improve our ability to predict biodiversity responses to ongoing changes in land use or climate. Subprojects cover different spatial and temporal scales and groups of organisms ranging from bacteria, fungi, plankton, plants, and insects to birds and mammals (for more details see http://www.biomove.org). Doctoral and Postdoctoral participants also strongly profit from a unique qualification program specifically tailored to bridge between state-of-the-art concepts and methods in movement ecology and biodiversity research, supplemented by a broad range of soft skill workshops.

BioMove is a collaborative project at the University of Potsdam (UP), the Freie Universität Berlin (FU), the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW, Berlin), and the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF, Müncheberg). The PostDoc position will be based at UP in the working group of Florian Jeltsch. UP is among the top 30 in the Times Higher Education Ranking of Young Universities. Potsdam is an attractive city that is situated at the banks of the River Havel (including many lakes), features a large ensemble of parks...
and palaces that are part of an UNESCO world heritage site, and is well connected by public transport to the multicultural capital Berlin, which it directly borders.

The objective of your work is to contribute to theory advancement and synthesis at the interface of movement ecology and biodiversity research. Your specific project(s) should help to bridge empirical and modelling studies, synthesize ongoing BioMove projects and further advance underlying BioMove concepts. Details will be developed together with the BioMove team based on your scientific background and expertise.

Qualifications

- PhD either in an ecological discipline (e.g. ecology, zoology, behavioural ecology) with a strong modelling focus or in a quantitative discipline (statistics, theoretical physics, applied mathematics, ecological statistics) paired with a strong interest in topics such as ecology, movement ecology, behavioural ecology, community ecology, biodiversity research.
- Strong expertise in ecological modelling and theory documented by high ranking peer-reviewed publications.
- Experience in synthesis work is beneficial.
- Proficiency in English and very good writing skills; Knowledge of German not necessary.
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary research and the willingness to engage in scientific exchange with other disciplines.

Under the laws of the federal state of Brandenburg, employees under this contract are permitted to dedicate at least 33% of their contract time for their scientific qualification.

The University of Potsdam aims to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching and therefore invites qualified applicants to apply. The University of Potsdam values the diversity of its members and pursues the goals of equal opportunities regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or identity. In the case of equal suitability, women within the meaning of Section 7 (4) BbgHG and severely disabled people will be given preferential consideration. Applications from abroad and from persons with a migration background are expressly welcome.

Applicants should send their application materials (cover letter, CV with contact information of two persons who can provide a reference, copies of relevant degrees, and a statement (max 1-2 pages) explaining your interest in and particular skills for the position) by September 13th, 2020 at the latest in electronic form as a single pdf file to biomove-rtg@uni-potsdam.de with the subject line, “Job Title – requisition number.”

Interviews are envisioned to take place 21 September - 02 October 2020 (in person or via video conference depending on situation and your current location).

If you have any questions, please contact Prof. Dr. Florian Jeltsch (florian.jeltsch@uni-potsdam.de).

Potsdam, August 18, 2020