

Two PhD Positions (University of Bayreuth)

“Effects of extreme weather events on ecosystem functions in temperate grassland and heath”

Rationale

Intensification of weather extremes is currently emerging as one of the most important facets of climate change. Novel evidence suggests, that extreme weather events may have significant and long-lasting effects on plant communities and ecosystem processes. Two PhD positions are available in a forthcoming multidisciplinary Bavarian research project on effects of climate change on ecosystems (FORCAST). In this project we will study the effects of experimentally simulated drought, heavy rain and freeze-thaw cycles on above and below ground productivity, flower phenology and other functions in grassland and heath vegetation. The interdisciplinary field experiment (EVENT: <http://www.old.uni-bayreuth.de/departments/biogeo/de/forschung/klimafolgen/index.htm>) consist of artificial and natural plant communities and is located at the Ecological Botanical Garden of the University of Bayreuth.

Requirements

Applicants should hold a MSc or Diploma degree in Ecology, Biology, Geoecology or related disciplines with preferably a strong background in plant and vegetation ecology. Knowledge in the fields of community ecology, disturbance ecology, plant population biology and statistics, preferably in R+ is desirable. Also experiences in ecological field work as well as plant identification skills and fluent English language abilities will be beneficial. Social skills, the ability to work in a team and interest in independent research are of relevance.

Salary and conditions

Salary and benefits are according to a public service position in Germany (TVL 13/2). Start date: 1st of February 2009. The positions are for three years each. The doctoral thesis will be done as a series of English manuscripts.

The University of Bayreuth is one of the leading international centres of Global Change research. We also offer a very nice research atmosphere in a growing and ambitious young research team (<http://www.ufz.de/index.php?de=1921>).

Applications

Please send your applications per email before **12th Decembre 2008**, including a CV, certificates, a short summary of research interests, and the names (with email address) of two referees to the email addresses given below. Interviews of successful candidates will be held personally or via Skype on **19th Decembre 2008**.

For further information, please contact

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