

We are seeking a **PhD student highly motivated to work on determinants of the *invasiveness* of *clonal plants***. The work will be part of a Sino-Swiss collaborative research project, which will involve field work in Europe and China, and experimentation on multiple clonal plant species in greenhouse and garden. Ideally, the candidate for this position should have a background in experimental ecology and basic knowledge of statistical methods (including generalized linear models).

The positions will be with Dr Mark van Kleunen and Prof. Dr Markus Fischer in the Plant Ecology group at the Institute of Plant Sciences of the University of Bern (<http://www.botany.unibe.ch/planteco/index.php>), Switzerland. Our collaborators in China are Dr Fei-Hai Yu, Prof. Dr. Ming Dong and a Chinese PhD student (position not filled yet) in the State Key Lab of Vegetation and Environmental Change, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing.

We offer a stimulating research environment in a beautiful city close to the Alps. In addition to projects on invasive plants, our group is involved in projects on evolutionary and molecular plant ecology, plant population biology and community ecology. The position is funded by the Swiss Science Foundation for a period of three years starting on February 1, 2009. Salaries (before taxes) rise from CHF 37 200 in the first year to CHF 43 200 in the third year.

Requirements for the positions include a Master's degree (or equivalent) in biology, a driver's license, fluency in German and English and good collaboration skills.

Applicants should e-mail a letter of application, a curriculum vitae and contact details of two references to Mark van Kleunen at vkleunen@ips.unibe.ch <<mailto:vkleunen@ips.unibe.ch>>. In the letter of application, the applicant should motivate why she or he wants to do a PhD and why she or he wants to work on plant invasions. The applicant should also present details on her or his experimental and statistical skills. The application deadline is January 15, 2009.

For more information on this position, the project and research in our lab contact Mark van Kleunen at vkleunen@ips.unibe.ch <<mailto:vkleunen@ips.unibe.ch>>.

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