



**iDiv**

German Centre for Integrative  
Biodiversity Research (iDiv)  
Halle-Jena-Leipzig

## External Job Announcement Reg.-Nr. 4-13108/21-D

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, in cooperation with the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, offers the following position at the earliest possible starting date and limited until 30 September 2024:

### Research officer (m/f/d) for the strategic project „sPlot – the global vegetation plot database“

as full-time employment (100 %).

The salary will be up to Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L, if the personal requirements and tasks are fulfilled. The workplace will be in Halle (Saale) in the research group of Prof. Helge Bruelheide in the Institute of Biology / Geobotany and Botanical Garden, which offers an international working atmosphere and focuses on functional biodiversity research in forests and grasslands as well as on biogeography and vegetation ecology.

#### The project:

sPlot is the first global vegetation plot database with currently 2 million plots and aims at analysing the global patterns of plant community trait-environment relationships. sPlot is a strategic project of iDiv and serves the global community of vegetation ecologists ([www.idiv.de/splot](http://www.idiv.de/splot)). Project development of sPlot will be in close cooperation with other iDiv researchers in Leipzig and the principal investigators in the global sPlot consortium.

#### Tasks:

- Expanding and updating the sPlot database to release v. 4.0, in particular filling gaps in tropical regions and including vegetation plot time series
- Independent research on the sPlot platform, development of own research projects
- Data analysis by integration of vegetation plot data with trait, phylogeny, environment and remote sensing data
- Writing publications for international journals and presenting results at international conferences
- Organizing the sPlot consortium, support of current sPlot projects, communication with sPlot members and preparing workshops
- Active involvement in iDiv activities
- There is the possibility to participate in teaching and mentoring of interns, Bachelor and/or Master students

#### Requirements:

- Scientific University degree (Diploma/ M.Sc.) in Biology, Ecology or Biodiversity Research
- Doctoral degree desired: rer. nat. or PhD in Plant Ecology, Vegetation Ecology, Functional trait analysis, Biogeography or Macroecology
- Extensive experience in ecoinformatics and with large databases, in particular vegetation-plot databases



- Deep knowledge of data integration, data analysis and statistical modelling with the statistical software R, with a focus on multivariate methods, temporal trend analysis, spatial statistics and randomization techniques
- Fluent English skills (spoken and written language), basic knowledge of German is an asset but not required
- Excellent publication record in international journals, with a focus on vegetation science, functional trait analysis and macroecology
- Outstanding communication skills and the ability to work in large teams

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg gives priority to applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications. Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applicants with a degree that was not obtained at a German higher education institution must submit a Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications from the Central Office for Foreign Education ([Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen](http://www.zentralstelle.de)) to prove equivalence.

Queries concerning the application process should be directed to Helge Bruelheide, [helge.bruehlheide@botanik.uni-halle.de](mailto:helge.bruehlheide@botanik.uni-halle.de), Tel.: +49-345-55-26222).

**Submission deadline is 01/12/2021.**

**All applications should include:**

- Cover letter describing motivation for the project, research interests and relevant experience
- Curriculum vitae including a complete publication list, digital copies of certificates such as master and PhD certificates, and the names and email addresses of two individuals who could provide an evaluation of the candidate upon request.

Kindly send your application in a single pdf document, quoting the **reference number 4-13108/21-D** to Helge Bruelheide ( [helge.bruehlheide@botanik.uni-halle.de](mailto:helge.bruehlheide@botanik.uni-halle.de) ).

The position is offered with reservation of possible budgetary restrictions. Application portfolios will not be returned, application costs will not be reimbursed.

iDiv is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse and inclusive community that collectively supports and implements our mission to do great science. We will welcome, recruit, develop, and advance talented staff from diverse genders and backgrounds.