External Job Announcement Reg.-Nr. 5-11214/25-D

Creating Knowledge. Since 1502: Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) offers a wide range of academic subjects in the areas of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and medicine. The oldest and largest university in Saxony-Anhalt was created in 1817 when the University of Wittenberg (founded in 1502) merged with Friedrichs University Halle (founded in 1694). Today the university has 340 professors and 20,000 students. Research at the university focuses on nano and life sciences, the Enlightenment, society and culture.

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Faculty of Natural Sciences III, Institute of Agricultural and Nutritional Sciences, Chair of Plant Breeding, is seeking to fill, as soon as possible, a temporary position until 31 December 2027 for a

Research Assistant (m-f-d)

to be filled part-time (65%) as soon as possible.

Remuneration will be determined based on job duties and responsibilities and will be aligned with the fulfillment of listed personal requirements, up to pay grade 13 under the *TV-L* (*Tarifvertrag für den Öffentlichen Dienst der Länder* – 'German Public Service Pay Agreement for the Federal States').

Job Responsibilities:

- Collaboration in the joint project *DiPredict* for AI-based optimisation of selection under drought stress in wheat breeding
- Work in an interdisciplinary team of PostDocs and PhD students from the fields of agricultural/biological sciences, earth/environmental sciences and computer sciences
- Practical participation in collecting ground truth data (e.g., yield, quality, pathogen resistance, morphology, and drought stress tolerance) in trials for predicting plant performance using drones with a specific focus on capturing of leaf angles and leaf shapes throughout the growing period
- Identification of interesting plant physiological traits for targeted prediction using drone-based sensor technology
- Determination of optimal times for drone flights in wheat breeding based on the analysis of weather, soil, and plant physiological characteristics
- Close internal collaboration with the image analysis working group at the Institute of Computer Science with a specific focus on the annotation of UAV images captured to count wheat spikes and to evaluate leaf diseases
- Cooperation with wheat breeding companies and external research institutions (e.g. Julius Kühn Institute, Quedlinburg; RAGT 2n, Silstedt; Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Bernburg)
- Collaboration with partners in the DiP consortium (model region of bioeconomy - digitalisation of plant value chains
- Presentation of research results at national and international conferences and publication in scientific journals in English

Requirements:

- Completed scientific university degree in agricultural sciences or related disciplines
- Basic understanding of plant morphology and physiology under biotic and abiotic stress
- Experience in data collection of plant morphological traits in the field

- Interest in processing and modeling multimodal data using artificial intelligence (AI) methods
- Experience in data analysis with R and/or SAS
- High analytical skills and quality awareness
- Willingness to travel to cooperation partners and international conferences
- Driving license (class B) desirable
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English

Applications from disabled persons, including those of equal status (as certified by the *Bundesagentur für Arbeit* / Federal Employment Agency), will be given preferential consideration if they are equally suitable and qualified. Women are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications from individuals of all nationalities are explicitly welcome. Applicants with a degree that was not obtained at a German university must submit a Statement of Comparability for Foreign Higher Education Qualifications from the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) (https://www.kmk.org/zab/central-office-for-foreign-education) as proof of equivalence upon conclusion of the employment contract. You can find ways to apply for a financial grant for this under: https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/pro/anerkennungszuschuss.php#.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Andreas Maurer, Tel.: 0345 55-22685, E-Mail: andreas.maurer@landw.uni-halle.de.

Please send your application, stating the Reg.-Nr. 5-11214/25-D with the usual documents by 30/12/2025 to Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät III, Institut für Agrar- und Ernährungswissenschaften, Professur für Pflanzenzüchtung, Dr. Andreas Maurer, 06099 Halle (Saale). Electronic transmission of the application documents in a single pdf file to andreas.maurer@landw.uni-halle.de is expressly desired.

The call for applications is subject to any budgetary restrictions. Application costs will not be reimbursed by Martin Luther University. Application documents will only be returned if a sufficiently stamped envelope is enclosed. Electronic applications are welcome.