

Leipzig, August 5th, 2019

Leipzig University offers the following position:

Student/Research assistant

Data support for project: 'Socioeconomic Drivers of Biodiversity Change' incl. option for BSc./MSc. thesis

(10-15 hrs/week, initially restricted to the remainder of 2019, may be extended into 2020)

Salary: depending on your personal profile, 9,87 €/h to 11.49 €/h

Global biodiversity is under threat from various anthropogenic pressures such as climate and land-use changes. By comparison, fairly little is known about the underlying socioeconomic drivers of biodiversity change, such as growth in human populations or economic activities. Accurately assessing the impacts of such indirect drivers on biodiversity requires mobilizing socioeconomic datasets into consistent global databases. To help facilitate cutting-edge research on global-scale human-environment interactions in a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative environment, we offer a student/research assistant position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv). The project is supervised by Dr. Carsten Meyer (head of iDiv's [Macroecology & Society group](#)).

Job description:

- Your main duty will be the discovery, collation, and management of global socioeconomic datasets. These are mainly census data published by national or subnational statistical offices and household survey data published in online databases.
- You will harmonize and integrate these data into a database to support research on the socioeconomic drivers of biodiversity change.
- Depending on your skills/prior experience, you may also be asked to perform more technical tasks (e.g., database management).
- You will be fully integrated into the research activities of our working group. We also welcome students interested in carrying out their BSc/MSc thesis in our lab on a project-related topic.

Requirements / expected profile:

- You are currently a BSc or MSc student in a related research discipline (e.g., geoinformatics, computer science, geography, economics, sustainability, environmental resource management, agricultural sciences, forestry, ecology, or similar subjects).
- Prior experience in a database program (e.g. MySQL, PostgreSQL, MS Access), a programming language (e.g. R), and/or GIS (e.g. QGIS) would be highly beneficial, but is not a strict prerequisite.
- We seek candidates who are highly motivated to contribute to a large database compilation effort. This requires attention to detail, tenacity, as well as excellent organizational and time-management skills.
- Excellent English language skills are a prerequisite. Skills in other foreign languages may be an advantage.
- Your place of work is the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) in Leipzig. Part-time home office options may be arranged in exceptional cases for highly qualified students from outside Leipzig.

You will be employed as student/research assistant via Leipzig University. We offer you the opportunity to carry out your BSc or MSc thesis project in our group (joint supervision with faculty from UL, MLU, UFZ, or the university where you are enrolled as a student is possible).

The preferred starting date is **September to October 2019. Applications are accepted until the position is filled.**

Applications should include:

- brief cover letter describing motivation, research interests & relevant experience
- tabular curriculum vitae, including a detailed account of relevant technical skills and prior experience
- if applicable, access to one of your recent projects relevant for this position (e.g. paper, GitHub repository)
- if applicable, digital copy of BA certificate (or equivalent)

Applications should be directed to Dr. Carsten Meyer (carsten.meyer@idiv.de) in a **single PDF file with reference "HIWI Global mapping" in the subject line**. Applying via email is questionable under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility. Women and other disadvantaged groups are encouraged to apply. Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

We are 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.

The **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)** is a DFG National Research Centre located in Leipzig and jointly hosted by the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU), the Leipzig University (UL) and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). Its central mission is to promote theory-driven synthesis and data-driven theory in the emerging field of Biodiversity Science. The concept of iDiv encompasses the detection of biodiversity, understanding its emergence, exploring its consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and developing strategies to safeguard biodiversity under global change.