The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) is offering a

PhD position (m/f) for Plant Ecology

Working time: 65% (23.5 hours per week), limited to three years. Starting date is 1st May/June 2020.

The position will be based in the Department Physiological Diversity of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, which is part of iDiv, the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research Halle-Jena-Leipzig in Leipzig, Germany. We offer an interesting position in an international, interdisciplinary research group at a lively scientific environment in Leipzig (https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=33124) as well as international working experiences with project partners across Europe and the USA. The UFZ is an equal opportunity employer. Female scientists are explicitly encouraged to apply for increase their share in science and research. Physically handicapped persons will be favored if they are equally qualified.

Your tasks
Research within a project funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG) on "Seed and seedling traits as related to plant diversity and community assembly in grasslands at different land-use intensity" in the framework of the DFG Priority Program Biodiversity Exploratories. The project has the major goal to characterize seed and early life-history traits of multiple species occurring in the grasslands of the Biodiversity Exploratories and relate these traits to land-use effects on grassland diversity and processes of community assembly. The responsibilities of the PhD student will be to conduct common garden experiments to characterize germination and seedling traits under different environmental conditions related to grassland management (i.e. litter presence and fertilization), to analyze morphological and chemical seed traits, and to study the viable seed bank in the top soil of grasslands included in a land-use experiment in the Biodiversity Exploratories. We will collaborate with the Leibniz Institute for Plant Breeding and Crop Research in Gatersleben for analysis of seed traits. The PhD student will participate in the Graduate School HIGRADE.

Your profile
Applicants must hold a Master degree in botany/ecology or a related field. He/she should be highly motivated for research in experimental plant ecology, chemical analyses and statistical data analysis. Experience in field sampling and experimental design, solid knowledge of plant taxonomy and morphology, statistics (preferably R) and handling of large datasets will be a plus. Strong organizational skills as well as a driving license valid in Germany are required. Applicants must have good knowledge of English and writing skills, but also at least basic knowledge of German language. Working place is Leipzig. Common garden experiments will be carried at the Experimental Field Station of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Bad Lauchstädt. Field work includes three regions of the Biodiversity Exploratories (Schorfheide, Hainich, Swabian Alb). Laboratory work will be done in Leipzig as well as during a research stay at the Leibniz Institute for Plant Breeding and Crop Research in Gatersleben.

We offer
- top-level interdisciplinary research at a research centre which enjoys an excellent reputation within Germany as well as internationally
- excellent technical facilities
- work in inter-disciplinary and multinational teams
- excellent links to national and international research networks
- support and optimal training courses by our graduate school (HIGRADE)
- remuneration in accordance with the TVöD public sector pay grade 13 (65%)

Application
Please send your complete application to the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) using the following link

(https://recruitingapp-5128.de.umantis.com/Vacancies/1837/Description/2?customer=5128).
Applicants should send their CV, copies of certificates, a statement on motivation and names (with email address) of two references by email in one single pdf file. Application deadline is 15th March 2020, and interviews will be in March 2020 in Leipzig. Further information can be obtained via PD Dr. Christiane Roscher (christiane.roscher@ufz.de).