Reference number 116/2021

Senior Scientist in Functional Biodiversity Research (m/f/d)

Founded in 1409, Leipzig University is one of Germany’s largest universities and a leader in research and medical training. With around 30,000 students and more than 5000 members of staff across 14 faculties, it is at the heart of the vibrant and outward-looking city of Leipzig. Leipzig University offers an innovative and international working environment as well as an exciting range of career opportunities in research, teaching, knowledge and technology transfer, infrastructure and administration.

The Department of Systematic Botany and Functional Biodiversity Research at the Faculty of Life Sciences seeks to fill the above position from 1 September 2021.

About the position
- Fixed term, based on the regulations of the German Act on Fixed-Term Employment Contracts in Academia (WissZeitVG)
- Term dependent on intended qualification
- Planned remuneration: salary group 13 TV-L

Duties
- Further scientific qualification towards an academic career
- Development and coordination of an independent research program in the field of plant and ecosystem ecology within the framework of the department’s focus on functional biodiversity research, functional biogeography, conservation, or global change ecology
- Research programme should ideally take advantage of some of our research platforms
- Acquisition of external funding
- Support in teaching vegetation ecology, general ecology, and advanced statistics

Requirements
- Background in ecology; or botany / forestry / environmental sciences with an ecological focus
- Doctoral/PhD degree or, given an exceptional publication record, completion of a doctoral/PhD degree within the first year after starting the position
- A deep interest in fundamental questions of ecology
- Strong quantitative skills and proficiency in advanced statistical methods using R
- Field experience
- Teaching experience (supervision and/or courses taught)
- A proven record of international publications
- Modelling skills, knowledge of AI methods, and expertise in remote sensing are a plus
- Good floristic knowledge is desirable
- Excellent teamwork skills
- Fluency in English (group language)
- Most teaching is in English, but candidates from abroad are also expected to learn German

What we offer
- A mentorship on the way to an academic career, and an international environment with an active and diverse group covering expertise in experimental and observational approaches and a wide range of statistical and eco-informatics methods
- Lab facilities, including NIRS, IRMS, spectrometry, laser scanning, dendrochronology and a fully equipped plant trait lab
- Research platforms run by the group include the Botanical Garden of the University, the Leipzig Canopy Crane, the Research Arboretum ArboFun and the Beta-Diversity Experiment
- Excellent greenhouse facilities

Our group is co-leading the TRY initiative and is involved in DFG programmes in the field of functional biodiversity research (e.g. Jena Experiment, TreeDi). We initiated and co-lead the DFG-funded German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig (http://www.idiv-biodiversity.de/), making Leipzig a global hotspot for biodiversity research.

For more information about our department’s work, please visit https://biologie.biphaps.uni-leipzig.de/de/ag/spezbot/.
Please send your application with the usual documents, including a two-page statement of your research agenda, up to two key publications, and contact details of three academic referees, quoting reference number 116/2021, to Leipzig University, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, Professor Marc Schönwiesner, Talstraße 33, 04103 Leipzig, GERMANY by 7 June 2021. You are also welcome to email your application as a single PDF file to cwirth@uni-leipzig.de. Please note that it is not possible to guarantee confidentiality and rule out unauthorised access by third parties when communicating by unencrypted email. We kindly request that you submit copies only, as we are unable to return application documents. Interview expenses will not be reimbursed.

Leipzig University aims to increase the proportion of women in positions of responsibility and therefore expressly invites qualified women to apply. Severely disabled persons – or persons deemed legally equal to them under Book IX of the German Social Code – are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability.

Privacy information

If you choose to apply and send us your documents, you do so voluntarily. Any personal data contained within your application documents, or obtained during an interview, will be processed by Leipzig University – as the advertiser of the position – exclusively for the purposes of the selection process for the position advertised. It will not be passed on to third parties without your consent in the individual case. The legal basis for such data processing is Sect. 11(1) of the Saxon Data Protection Implementation Act (SächsDSGG) in conjunction with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The controller for the application process within the meaning of the GDPR is the addressee of the application, specified in the advertisement. Your personal data will be stored for six months after the end of the recruitment process and then erased or destroyed in accordance with data protection regulations. You may refuse or withdraw your consent with effect for the future without giving reasons. In these cases, Leipzig University will not or no longer be able to process and consider your application. Under the GDPR, subject to the relevant statutory requirements you have the following rights vis-à-vis the addressee of the application with regard to your personal data: right of access (Art. 15 GDPR); right to rectification of inaccurate personal data (Art. 16 GDPR); right to erasure (Art. 17 GDPR); right to restriction of processing (Art. 18 GDPR); and right to object to processing (Art. 21 GDPR). If you have any questions, please contact the Data Protection Officer at Leipzig University (office: Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig). You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Saxon Commissioner for Data Protection.