

HiWi (student helper) position within the MikroSafari invertebrate project

2- 4 months, 10-19.5 h/week, field and lab work, starting ideally May 2022

The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) are offering a HiWi (student helper) position as part of the new MikroSafari citizen science project www.mikrosafari.de investigating the impacts of urbanization and climate change on invertebrate communities.

Background

MikroSafari is a new citizen science project, taking place in Leipzig, Halle and Berlin. Through pitfall traps and baiting experiments schools in these three cities will investigate how microclimate and urbanization are affecting invertebrate communities. The schools will conduct their experiments in May, after which researchers will sort and identify the collected specimens and give the schools feedback on their findings. At the same time, schools will also be collecting microclimate data and the participating students will answer questionnaires on their interest and knowledge of nature and invertebrates.

Work description

Work will mainly take place in Leipzig, with some field work also in Berlin and Halle. This is a great opportunity to learn how to build and conduct a citizen science project while gaining experience with both field and laboratory work. The work will comprise many different aspects, including but not limited to:

- Helping with the assembly and distribution of field survey kits and conducting field work during May 2022
- Sorting, identification and processing of above- and belowground invertebrate samples
- Helping with coordinating the involvement of schools, including communication and feedback; Assistance in developing learning and teaching materials for the schools (mainly German translation)
- Contribution to data management and analysis

Your profile

Anyone with an interest in the project is welcome to apply, but preference will be given to applicants with the following profile:

- Currently studying for a bachelor's or master's degree in Biology, Ecology or a similar discipline
- Knowledge of or interest in invertebrates and their identification desirable
- Fluent in German, good spoken English
- Good organization skills
- Curiosity, willingness to learn, motivation, and independent working

We offer research training in a diverse, welcoming, and motivated team, supervised by experienced researchers at a unique research centre and the possibility to work on exciting ecological questions. The successful applicant is welcome and encouraged to develop their own research questions and project using the MikroSafari data.

Contact

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Please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested to further discuss the options.