

Leipzig, May 3, 2023

Leipzig University seeks to fill the following position at the **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)** Halle-Jena-Leipzig **from 01 July 2023** onwards:

Student/Research assistant (f/m/d)

**Data support for project: 'Data integration on global vertebrate species distributions'
incl. option for BSc./ MSc. thesis**

Work volume: 8 or 16 hrs/week

Duration: 6 up to 9 months, depending on your availability
(longer durations possible, depending on project funding)

Salary depending on your personal profile: 12,00 €/h to 12,72 €/h

Place of work: iDiv in Leipzig,

in exceptional cases another workplace option for students from outside Leipzig may be arranged

Background:

Ecological models of species distributions are a critical tool for understanding how biodiversity responds to climate change and human activities. To accurately model where species occur and how their distributions change through time, we need to mobilize different types of species-specific data for different world regions and time-periods. To help develop a global database of species' distributional changes 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](#)) and Dr. Talita Amado (postdoctoral researcher in the same group).

Job description:

- Your main duty will be the discovery, collation, and management of species' occurrence datasets for global land vertebrates (mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles). You will focus on different types of data that contain information on species occurrences at different spatial scales, including field records from structured monitoring programs, bird atlas maps, species inventories of protected areas, and regional species checklists.
- You will record metadata on these datasets, before harmonizing and integrating them into a global database that supports research on modelling species distributional changes. You will use specialized software packages in the 'R' programming language to do this work.
- Occasionally, you will also be asked to perform other tasks related to this project (e.g. literature research).
- 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.

Requirements / expected profile:

- You are a BSc or MSc student in a related research discipline (e.g. biology, ecology, geography, forestry, environmental sciences, environmental resource management, etc.).
- We seek candidates who are highly motivated to contribute to a large database compilation effort. This requires attention to detail, tenacity, and some tolerance to frustration, as well as excellent organizational and time-management skills.
- As you may interact (via email) with data holders from diverse backgrounds, strong skills in communicating professionally are required. Excellent English language skills are a prerequisite, and skills in other foreign languages would be a strong advantage.
- Prior experience in 'R' or another programming language will be an advantage. Experience in a database program (e.g. MySQL, MS Access), and/or GIS (e.g. QGIS) would be beneficial, but is not a prerequisite.

- We are looking for students who are motivated to support this project for a longer period of time

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 **01 July 2023** or shortly thereafter. **Applications are accepted until the position is filled.**

Applications should include:

- brief cover letter describing motivation, research interests & relevant experience
- tabular curriculum vitae, incl. a detailed account of relevant technical/other 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. Talita Amado (talita.fereira_amado@idiv.de) in a **single PDF** file with reference **"HIWI Species Distributions"** in the subject line.

Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability. Please note that applying via email is not entirely secure under data protection law. The sender assumes full responsibility.

iDiv is 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. More information: www.idiv.de.