

Leipzig, December 20th, 2023

Leipzig University seeks to fill the following position at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig **at the earliest opportunity:**

Student/Research assistant (f/m/d) at the iDiv Core Center, Leipzig

Project: Understanding Restorative Benefits of Nature (URBAN)

Duration: Until October 2024, project extension planned

Salary: Depending on your personal profile, from 12,72 €/h

Work volume: 10 or 15 hrs/week

Background:

The iDiv core research group [Ecosystem Services](#) (ESS) focuses on the emerging field of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation in a changing world. As the ecosystem service concept links biodiversity, ecosystem functions and human well-being, we follow inter- and transdisciplinary approaches. This includes facilitating participatory methods and knowledge exchange at the science-policy interface. Both iDiv and our group stand out through our integrative, interdisciplinary research, combining aspects of biology, ecology, economy, sociology as well as psychology and more in a team of dedicated researchers from international backgrounds. Our network spans many research teams in and around Leipzig as well as international science and policy making. This makes for a very dynamic research experience in a highly relevant field. The lab strives to develop and foster citizen science as a sustainable part of research activities and active citizenship.

The [ValuGaps](#) project is aimed to compile comprehensive, reliable and scalable values of natural capital and biodiversity for societal decision-making – and thus fill in the existing knowledge gaps that policy makers are confronted with on a daily basis. One such gap is the need for information on the effects of urbanization and neighborhood design on the human psyche and body. To this end, the URBAN project will analyse a large cohort dataset in combination with geospatial data to investigate the link between urban green and health parameters.

The position will be supervised by Prof. Aletta Bonn (iDiv core professor) and Dr. Marie Meemken (psychologist; postdoc) and enable an active insight into this highly relevant research field.

Job description and tasks:

- Statistical Programming tasks
epidemiological + geospatial data, data cleaning, code reviews, etc.
- Support in literature research
- Participate in project meetings
- Work independently on small project tasks

Requirements / expected profile:

The position involves working with a large cohort data set (conducted via R software, and including geospatial data) as well as preparing a future data collection via survey. The ideal candidate will have a strong statistical background and good analytical skills with relation to human health data. Their resume will also show:

- MSc student in a related research discipline (e.g. psychology, ecology, etc.)
- Considerable experience in statistical programming (i.e., with R)
- Some experience in literature research
- Interest in environmental (neuro-) psychology
- Ideally, a background in health-related or psychological research

You will be employed as a student/research assistant via Leipzig University. The preferred starting date is **March 15th, 2024** or shortly thereafter. Applications are accepted until the position is filled.

Applications should be directed to Dr. Marie-Theres Meemken (marie-theres.meemken@idiv.de) **in a single PDF** file with reference **"Student Assistant – ESS URBAN"** in the subject line.

Applications should include:

- A brief cover letter describing motivation and previous experience
- If applicable, access to recent project interests & relevant experience (e.g. paper, GitHub)
- Tabular curriculum vitae, incl. relevant technical/other skills
- Digital copy of relevant degrees and certificates

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

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.