Reference number 314/2023

**Soil laboratory technician (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 [German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) - Halle-Jena-Leipzig](https://www.idiv.de) seeks to fill the above position at the earliest opportunity.

Soil organisms and ecosystem functions are poorly represented in macroecological analysis, with major geographic and thematic gaps undermining our assessment of soil ecosystems worldwide. In this context, an international group of researchers decided in 2018 to establish the first global soil biodiversity observation network, not only to reduce geographical knowledge gaps, but also to support the development of new monitoring systems and to assess trends in soil biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Formed as a global Soil Biodiversity Observation Network (Soil BON), this group works in partnership with the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) and other global and regional partners to provide the soil biological and ecosystem observations needed to ensure that living soil resources are sustainably conserved and managed and can support essential human needs. Soil BON partners represent a range of stakeholders, including researchers, educators and policy advisors from academic, government and the private sector. The aim is to further connect multinational partners and initiatives in a global effort to understand soil biodiversity and functions, document how they are changing, how these changes affect people who depend on soil-related living resources for their well-being and livelihoods, and how sustainable use of ecosystems can safeguard soil biodiversity. With the support of iDiv, several sampling campaigns are already in preparation and collaborations with other global and regional initiatives (Global Crop Microbiome, BIODESERT, iSBio, among others) will enhance our scope and capacity to understand global soil systems and their contribution to biogeochemical cycles.

**About the position**

- Fixed term until 30 September 2024; an extension is being sought, but funding has not yet been secured
- 100 % of a full-time position
- Planned remuneration: salary group 9a TV-L
- Place of work: Leipzig.

**Duties**

- Coordination of shipment of equipment (e.g. sampling kits) and soil around the world
- Preparation of sampling kits
- Receiving sampling kits and organizing their processing (sieving, measurements, storage)
- Lab work (soil nematode extraction, soil microbial respiration measurements (SIR method), soil enzyme activity, DNA extraction)
- Entering data into databases
- Dealing with paperwork and permits required to ship soils
- Training student assistants.

**Requirements**

- Completed vocational training, preferably as a biological-technical assistant, chemical-technical assistant or comparable qualification and experience
- Strong drive to organize processes
- Knowledge of digitization of lab processes would be an advantage
- Knowledge of soil processing and analysis desirable
- Knowledge of soil DNA extraction and molecular working techniques
- Knowledge of how to comply with the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol would be an advantage
• Computer skills, particularly MS Office, are required
• Ability to work independently and take responsibility
• Good team and communication skills
• English language skills (minimum level B2).

**What we offer**
• A modern workplace and attractive working conditions (mobile working)
• Flexible working hours and work-life balance
• Continuing education opportunities as offered by Leipzig University
• Pension plan
• Commuter pass for the MDV network
• Opportunities to grow in your career
• An international team who love what they do.

Please send your application with the usual documents, quoting **reference number 314/2023, via our application portal [https://apply.idiv.de](https://apply.idiv.de)** by 20 November 2023. Please refer to the requirements and duties in your cover letter. Although we prefer applications via our application portal, they can also be sent by mail to the **German Centre for integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) - Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Svenja Haenzel, Puschstr. 4, 04103 Leipzig.** 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 (SächsDSDSG) 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.