



## Student helper position (12 months, 8h/week)

The [Soil Biodiversity Observation Network](#) (Soil BON) is looking for a student or research assistant who can **start in October 2025** and support the laboratory work of the team until at least the end of October 2026.

The goal of Soil BON is, among others, to understand soil biodiversity, document how it is changing, and how these changes affect people who rely on soil living resources for their well-being and livelihoods. **To do so, we monitor soil biodiversity and soil ecosystem functions, and their changes over time in nature conservation and non-conservation areas.**

The [Experimental Interaction Ecology group](#) at the [German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research \(iDiv\)](#) serves as a central hub to coordinate these efforts and will be your workplace.

- **Your tasks**

Ideally, we expect a student enrolled in a bachelor's or master's study program in biology, ecology with a strong interest in soil biodiversity and soil ecology and related laboratory work.

This position will support the labwork of the Soil BON team with:

- the measurement of **water-stable soil aggregates**,
- the **nematode extraction** using the Baermann funnel method, and
- **other laboratory work** such as soil subsampling and sieving, weighing tasks, pH measurements, wood stick processing, etc.

All work requires a meticulous approach, reliability, and open communication.

- **Your opportunities**

We offer valuable insight into several methods to measure soil biodiversity and functions in an international environment. In addition, we welcome interest in participating in our working group life, which may include social events, our working group seminar, and courses we offer.

- **Your application**

Please include the following information in your application:

1. Previous laboratory experience and information on working methods
2. Time availability
3. Curriculum vitae including contact information

Please send questions and application documents to Lise Thouvenot/Monica Farfan ([info@soilbon.org](mailto:info@soilbon.org)), and Felix Zeh ([lab@soilbon.org](mailto:lab@soilbon.org)) by **August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. A contract extension may be possible, and the number of hours/week can be negotiable.



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iDiv is a central facility of Leipzig University within the meaning of Section 92 (1) of the Act on Academic Freedom in Higher Education in Saxony (Sächsisches Hochschulfreiheitsgesetz, SächsHSFG). It is run together with the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, as well as in cooperation with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ. The following non-university research institutions are involved as cooperation partners: the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry (MPI BGC), the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology (MPI CE), the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPI EVA), the Leibniz Institute DSMZ–German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, the Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB), the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Leibniz Institute Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz (SMNG).