



Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL

The Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL is part of the ETH Domain. It employs approximately 500 people working on the sustainable use and protection of the landscapes and habitats and a responsible approach to handling natural hazards. The Research Unit Forest Soils and Biogeochemistry focuses on the question how biogeochemical and microbial processes in soils are affected by external forces, such as pollutant transfer and climatic changes. The project is part of a Joint research project between Switzerland and South Africa. The Research Group "Rhizosphere Processes" is presently offering a

PhD position in polar and alpine microbiology

This position aims for a comprehensive understanding of the diversity and functions of microorganisms in the Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine regions. You will focus on the unexplored microbiome of permafrost systems and investigate the biogeography, taxonomic composition, metabolic capacities, and adaptation capabilities to climate change of the permafrost microbiome. The project will also entail field work and controlled experiments on permafrost soils in Arctic and Alpine regions. Further you will collaborate with other students from the Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

You have a Master degree in Environmental Sciences, Biology, Microbiology, Ecology or Genetics with strong interest in microbial ecology, metagenomics and extreme environments. Experience in next generation sequencing including bioinformatics, Know-how in general laboratory manipulations and understandings in data analyses and statistics are prerequisites. Good communication skills, an excellent team spirit and proficiency in written and spoken English are fundamental. You will contribute to group activities, work in an interdisciplinary team, publish research findings in internationally peer-reviewed journals and participate to national and international workshops/conferences.

You will be based at the WSL Institute in Birmensdorf (ZH). However, availability for extended periods of collaborative work in South Africa as well as intense field sampling campaigns in polar and high alpine regions are requested. Preferred starting date is 1st of June 2017.

Please send your complete application to Sabine Hirt, WSL via the online form at: https://eth-gethired.ch/jobs/phd_position_in_polar_and_alpine_microbiology/35668. Questions will be answered by Dr. Beat Frey, phone +41(0)447392541 or beat.frey@wsl.ch. Further information are available http://www.wsl.ch/info/mitarbeitende/frey/index_DE# or <https://scholar.google.ch/citations?user=FWgM1soAAAAJ&hl=de>. The WSL strives to increase the proportion of women in its employment, which is why qualified women are particularly called upon to apply for this position.