



PhD position on modelling biological invasions in sub-Antarctic regions

The Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research at the University of Vienna (<http://www.botanik.univie.ac.at/botanik/index.php>) offers a PhD position within the European Biodiversity project ASICS (ASsessing and mitigating the effects of climate change and biological Invasions on the spatial redistribution of biodiversity in Cold environments, see <https://www.coldregioninvasives.com/>).

Background

Climate in the coldest regions on Earth is changing at an unprecedented rate, triggering poleward and upward species redistribution, and increasing the likelihood of biological invasions. However, we know little about the impacts of invading species in high-elevation and high-latitude ecosystems, and how species invasions there are likely to interact with other global change components. ASICS aims to combine expertise and existing data from cold environments (sub-Antarctic islands, Arctic, Antarctic and alpine regions) to better understand the combined effects of climate changes and biological invasions on the future of biodiversity in these environments. The project is a collaboration of 13 European research teams. The University of Vienna, the Austrian partner, will mainly focus on analysing recent and predicting future plant invasions on sub-Antarctic islands (in particular Kerguelen and Crozet). The models will be informed by monitoring data collected on these islands by project partners over the last decades.

Position announced

The successful candidate shall try to identify a set of species that are not yet present on selected sub-Antarctic regions/islands, but may invade these regions over the next decades. She or he shall also use different modelling approaches to develop scenarios of their spread within the targeted regions and the possible consequences for native biodiversity.

Qualifications

The position requires a master degree in ecology or a related field.

We also expect applicants to have (1) interest and experience in macroecology, biogeography, biological invasions, biodiversity research or a related field; (2) strong statistical skills (preferably in R); (3) a collaborative attitude; and (4) fluency in English, at least at the B2 level. Experience in writing scientific publications is an asset.

Offer

The position is for three years. In accordance with the standards of the Austrian Science Fund, PhD positions are for 30 h / week (approximately 30,000 € gross salary per year, <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/personnel-costs/>). The remaining 10 hours are meant to be

spent for work required to acquire the academic degree. PhDs will be part of the University of Vienna's Doctoral School of Ecology and Evolution (<https://vds-ecology-evolution.univie.ac.at/>).

No teaching obligation is involved in these positions (but teaching opportunities may be available in case of interest).

All positions include health and other social insurance according to Austrian laws.

Supervisors and collaborators

Stefan Dullinger and Franz Essl are leading the Austrian contribution to ASICS and will supervise the successful candidate (see <http://cvl.univie.ac.at/departement/>). The candidate will moreover interact with other team members of ASICS to a varied degree.

Place of employment

The main working place is at the Division of Conservation Biology at the Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research of the University of Vienna. Work at the Division is focused on ecological consequences of global environmental change, including climate change, land use change and biological invasions. Methods applied include field studies and experiments as well as macroecological analyses and modelling of species' distribution and population dynamics.

Starting date

The positions shall be filled by 01/04/2021. A somewhat later start is negotiable.

Contact

If you are interested in this position, send a letter of motivation, a CV, including a list of your scientific presentations and publications, and the contact details of two references to stefan.dullinger@univie.ac.at. Please, merge all submitted documents into a **single PDF** file and include your name in the file name. The **application deadline** is **18.02.2021**.

Further information

Please contact Stefan Dullinger (stefan.dullinger@univie.ac.at) or Franz Essl (franz.essl@univie.ac.at) if you need any further information.