



The Department of Plant Ecology (Research Group Functional and Tropical Plant Ecology, Prof. Dr. Engelbrecht) at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, offers a position for a

**Doctoral Researcher (m/f/d)**

for 3 years. This is a paid position (65% TV-L E13). The start date is flexible between April and August 2026. The research group examines various aspects of how abiotic and biotic factors influence plant performance, distribution patterns and community composition, and considers them in the context of global change.

The doctoral researcher will participate in the research project 'The ecological role of silicon in tropical forests: consequences of inter- and intraspecific variation of silicon accumulation for woody seedling regeneration in the forest understory', which is funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG) and carried out in close collaboration with Dr. Liza Comita, The Forest School, Yale University, U.S.A. A central component of the project is field research in lowland tropical forests in central Panama, hosted by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI).

The research group is part of the Bayreuth Center of Ecology and Environmental Research (BayCEER), an interdisciplinary research hub at the University of Bayreuth with more than 60 senior researchers and postdocs. Doctoral researchers benefit from the structured 'Doctoral program in Ecology and Environmental Research' (PEER).

**Your Profile** (1) Master's degree in Ecology, Botany, or a related discipline, (2) Strong interest and background in plant ecology, tropical ecology, functional ecology, and/or field-based research, (3) Motivation and ability to conduct fieldwork under challenging field conditions, (4) Good organizational and analytical skills, (5) Solid experience in statistical data modelling, (6) Excellent English verbal and written communication skills (German and Spanish are optional), (7) Team-oriented mindset and interest in scientific collaboration

**We Offer** (1) A fully funded PhD position at a German research university, (2) An international, collaborative research environment, (3) Excellent networking opportunities, (4) Unique opportunities for tropical field research, (5) Graduate training and career development support.

The University of Bayreuth values the diversity of its employees and is explicitly committed to the goal of gender equality. Women are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants with children are very welcome. Persons with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration if equally qualified.

**Application Process** Please submit your application materials (CV, statement of research interests, copies of academic certificates, and contacts of three referees in one pdf file) to: Prof. Dr. Bettina Engelbrecht ([bettina.engelbrecht@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:bettina.engelbrecht@uni-bayreuth.de), copied to [plant.ecology@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:plant.ecology@uni-bayreuth.de)), with the email subject 'Application Doctoral Position'. Applications are accepted until the position is filled.

For further information, please contact: Prof. Dr. Bettina Engelbrecht ([bettina.engelbrecht@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:bettina.engelbrecht@uni-bayreuth.de)) with the email subject 'Inquiry Doctoral Position'.