

Multiple Ph.D. and postdoc positions at the interface of quantitative environmental microbiology, genomics, and AI

The Pollak lab at the Centre for Microbiology and Environmental Systems Science in the University of Vienna is looking to fill multiple Ph.D. and postdoc positions. Projects deal with quantitatively exploring how interactions in terrestrial microbial populations determine large-scale ecosystem function, and how we can predict these properties from (meta)genomic data.

To answer our research questions, the lab combines high-throughput cultivation of natural and synthetic microbial communities, -omics data generation, computational analysis using AI, and quantitative ecological theory development. Ultimately our goal is to utilize our insights to improve predictions of how climate change would perturb microbial activity, and advance the vision of “personalized environmental probiotics” – synthetic microbial interventions that perform specific functions in the environment.

The Ph.D. positions are fully funded for 4 years, while postdoc positions are available for 3 years with a possibility to extend. Salary will be in accordance with collective bargaining agreements with relevant work experience determining the assignment to a particular salary grade.

Candidate profile:

We are looking broadly for applicants with microbiological and/or quantitative backgrounds. Pure computational/theoretical/experimental projects are possible, but lab members are encouraged to combine computational/theoretical analysis with experimental approaches. Good communication skills in written and spoken English are expected, and the ability to work in a team is absolutely essential.

The working environment:

Our lab and Centre are built around a culture of sharing and mutual aid, both in and out of the academic environment. The newly founded Centre of Microbiology and Environmental Systems Science is comprised of groups that conduct internationally leading research in the field of microbial ecology and environmental systems science. The Centre's Department of Microbiology and Ecosystem Science assembles an international, ambitious and committed team and offers an interdisciplinary scientific environment, cutting-edge laboratories and a creative working atmosphere. The University pursues a non-discriminatory employment policy and values equal opportunities, as well as diversity (<http://diversity.univie.ac.at/>).

For further information please contact:

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