ALFRED-WEGENER-INSTITUT
HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FÜR POLAR- UND MEERESFORSCHUNG



The Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) is a member of the Helmholtz Association (HGF) and funded by federal and state government. AWI focuses on polar and marine research in a variety of disciplines such as biology, oceanography, geology, geochemistry and geophysics thus allowing multidisciplinary approaches to scientific goals.

PhD Position "Characterising methane production and oxidation rates in cold northern soils" (m/f/d)

Background

This PhD project is part of the international research project "The role of non-growing season processes in the methane and nitrous oxide budgets in pristine northern ecosystems (FluxWIN)", which aims to quantify how carbon and nitrogen cycling and resulting greenhouse gas emissions change between the growing season, when plants are active, and outside of the growing season. In FluxWIN, we focus on the Siikaneva Bog in boreal Finland and the surrounding area. The research project is funded by the European Research Council Horizon 2020 Framework.

Tasks

- You will address the key question of 'How do rates of methane production and oxidation respond to freeze-thaw and shoulder season conditions?'.
- You will take part in field work in boreal Finland throughout the year as part of the collaborative FluxWIN project, as well as conducting laboratory experiments and data synthesis to characterise how methane production and oxidation rates develop under different field conditions throughout the year.
- Collaborative opportunities also exist to link methane production and oxidation with other aspects of biogeochemistry, for example microbial community characterisation, geochemical characterisation, and stable isotopic methods.
- You will have access to the cutting-edge laboratory facilities of the AWI in Potsdam, Germany, and participate in international conferences, inter-disciplinary meetings and other activities of the international project group.
- The PhD thesis is expected to be a cumulative thesis of peer-reviewed manuscripts.

Requirements

- Master of Science (Diploma) degree in the field of geosciences, soil science, biogeochemistry, physical geography or related disciplines
- Ability and willingness to participate in multi-week long expeditions to boreal Finland
- Ability and willingness to work in a team and with international groups
- Excellent communication skills and outstanding knowledge of English
- Interest in independent research, the presentation and publication of scientific data at conferences and workshops

Additional skills and knowledge

- first experience in scientific writing, publication and presentation
- prior experience in analytical methods is an advantage (e.g. gas chromatography, methane flux measurements, soil incubations)
- prior experience in statistical analysis and/or R scripting is an advantage
- Finnish and/or German language skills are an advantage

Further Information
For further information, please contact **Dr. Claire Treat** (claire.treat@awi.de, phone: +49(331)288-2136) and **Prof. Dr. Guido Grosse** (Guido.Grosse@awi.de, phone: +49(471)228-2156).

This position is limited to 3 years and starts on January 1st, 2021. The salary will be paid in accordance with the Collective Agreement for the Public Service of the Federation (Tarifvertrag des öffentlichen Dienstes, TVöD Bund), up to salary level **13 (66%)**. The place of employment will be **Potsdam.**

All doctoral candidates will be members of AWI's postgraduate program **POLMAR** or another graduate school and thus benefit from a comprehensive training program and extensive support measures.

The AWI is characterised by

- our scientific success - excellent research.
- collaboration and cooperation - intra-institute, national and international, interdisciplinary.
- opportunities to develop – on the job, aiming at other positions and beyond AWI.
- a culture of reconciling work and family – an audited and well-supported aspect of our operation
- our outstanding research infrastructure – ships, stations, aircraft, laboratories and more.
- an international environment – everyday contacts with people from all over the world.
- having an influence – fundamental research with social and political relevance
- flat hierarchies – facilitating freedom and responsibility
- exciting science topics, with opportunities also in technology, administration and infrastructure

Equal opportunities are an integral part of our personnel policy. The AWI aims to increase the number of female employees and therefore strongly encourages qualified women to apply.

Disabled applicants will be given preference when equal qualifications are present.

The AWI fosters the compatibility of work and family in various ways and has received a number of awards as a result of this engagement.

We look forward to your application!

Please forward your application by **November 13th, 2020** exclusively online.
Reference number 20/134/D/Geo-b

APPLY NOW!

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