

## PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ)

**Bewerbungsfrist: 15.12.2023**

### PhD (d/f/m) in vegetation science and landscape ecology

fully funded for 3 years with ~1 year extension possible

#### Job description:

We are seeking a PhD student for a collaborative project focusing on grassland plant communities, biodiversity and landscape change, and (depending your interests) potentially also theoretical ecology. The research focuses on tracking interactive dynamics of grassland plant communities and historical landscape change, based on the natural experiment arising from differences in land use and management along the Austrian-Czech border. The candidate would join the Ecology and Systematics working group at the University of Graz in Styria, Austria with primary advisor Adam Clark ([adamclarktheecologist.com](mailto:adamclarktheecologist.com)). The PhD project will have a strong field survey component (2-3 months/year, in ~May-July of 2024 and 2025), focusing on plant communities along the Austrian-Czech border. The candidate will work closely with Adam and GRACE collaborators in Brno, Prague, and Vienna to plan and carry out the surveys, and investigate results. Relevant skills include plant taxonomy (especially in and around Central Europe), being comfortable working outside, and interest in conservation or landscape ecology.

#### Requirements:

- A masters degree in a relevant field, such as ecology, botany, geography, bioinformatics, environmental sciences, conservation, biology, etc.
- Interest in field-based research, especially grassland plant surveys and taxonomy.
- Ability to develop scientific questions and conduct scientific field surveys.
- Interest in learning about vegetation dynamics and methods for carrying out ecological and geographic analyses (e.g. GIS, scientific programming in languages like R, etc.).
- Willingness to carry out collaborative projects and work with international collaborators.
- Knowledge of the plant species, landscape history, or local languages of Central Europe (especially Czech and/or German) is advantageous, but not required.
- We welcome applicants of all genders, cultures, backgrounds, ages, and countries. We believe that a diverse team broadens perspectives and enhances creativity, and we commit to be flexible and supportive in working to meet the needs and long-term goals of candidates.

#### What we offer:

- Starting gross salary of €2.464,80/month paid 14 times per year (Austrian salaries include summer and winter holiday “bonus” pay-checks), with annual adjustments for inflation.
- The position is fully funded for three years, with funding for a roughly one-year extension.
- Dedicated funds for travel to conferences, workshops, summer schools, etc.
- Starting date: around 1 March 2024 (negotiable).

**To apply**, please email [adamclarkecology@gmail.com](mailto:adamclarkecology@gmail.com) a single .PDF of no more than 10 MB with:

- A motivation letter (no more than 1 page) describing
  1. your relevant experience (e.g. taxonomic skills, fieldwork or research experience),
  2. any details you want to share, e.g. about your research interests and/or career goals,
  3. optionally, you can also include your ideal starting date.
- Your CV, including relevant or interesting research related aspects (e.g. relevant courses or summer schools, past field projects, your website, code repositories, any thesis projects, academic publications, scientific presentations, etc.).
- Optional: contact details (no letters required) for up to 3 academic referees, e.g. your former supervisor, boss, or collaborators.

Please put **“GRACE PhD”** and your name in the subject of the email and the name of the .PDF. Review of applications will begin on **15 December 2023**, and continue until the position is filled. Candidates will be given the opportunity to speak with Adam’s past and current students and mentees before being asked to make any commitments to the position.