

PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT HALLE)
Bewerbungsfrist: 28.04.2019

PhD position plant-animal interactions - Martin Luther University Halle
Reg.-Nr.: 5-435/18-D

The *Institute of Biology/Geobotany and Botanical Garden*, at Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, invites applications for a postgraduate position within the project “Understanding forest regeneration in bracken-dominated areas of tropical montane forest: a trait-based approach” funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The position will start 1st of July 2019 and will run for 3 years (TVL E 13, 65%). The position supports scientific qualification through the preparation of a doctoral thesis within the framework of the project.

The successful candidate will work in tropical bracken-dominated montane communities of the Bolivian Andes, and will combine observational and experimental studies in the field of plant-animal interactions. Fieldwork is expected to last between 1.5 and 2 years. The PhD candidate will assess seed dispersal effectiveness of birds and/or bats, and the potential value of perches and bat roosts to increase seed dispersal and seedling recruitment. The project will be carried out in close cooperation with Dr. Silvia Gallegos, Institute of Ecology, Universidad Mayor de San Andres, La Paz/Bolivia.

We are looking for a highly qualified and motivated postgraduate fellow who meets the following requirements:

- Excellent Master degree in biology
- Enthusiastic and independent student with a strong interest in the field of plant-animal interactions
- Deep interest in doing fieldwork in the tropical montane forest of Bolivia under harsh environmental conditions
- Particular interest in catching birds or bats during fieldwork
- Experience analyzing ecological data with R
- Driving experience (desirable)
- Work experience abroad
- Fluency in English and basic Spanish
- Ambition to publish in international journals
- Qualification goal: PhD

Martin Luther University of Halle aims to increase the number of women in research and teaching. Applications by females are particularly welcome. In addition, persons with disabilities, with appropriate qualifications and aptitudes, will be employed preferentially.

Applications, including a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, relevant certificates and the name and email address of two references should be sent as one pdf file to isabell.hensen@botanik.uni-halle.de by **April 28th, 2019**.

For more information please contact Prof. Dr. Isabell Hensen, Tel.: 0345-55 26210, E-Mail: isabell.hensen@botanik.uni-halle.de; http://www.botanik.uni-halle.de/pflanzenoekologie/isabell_hensen/