

Position Opening

The Chair of Conservation Biology and Forest Ecology at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany, is inviting applications for a

Researcher Position (f/m/d)

in the field of forest ecology. The contract will start on **1 September 2026** and is initially set to run until **31 August 2029**. The position will be part time (65%).

Remuneration will be based on the collective agreement for the public service of German federal states (*Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder, TV-L*).

The place of employment will be Würzburg.

The position is embedded in the DFG-funded project "Forest Gaps and Habitat Specialists – The Influence of Canopy Openings and Deadwood Management on Insect Communities" and is part of the Biodiversity Exploratories consortium. The aim of the project is to analyse insect communities and their responses to different forest structural conditions.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a catalogue of molecular insect data and the assignment of these data to species-specific habitat requirements, in close collaboration with a data manager.

The position includes the analysis of insect community data from the Biodiversity Exploratories *Hainich* and *Schwäbische Alb*, based on samples collected using Malaise traps and analysed via metabarcoding approaches. The datasets will already be available at the beginning of the project. There will also be opportunities to participate in field sampling activities within related projects. Further responsibilities include the analysis, interpretation, and publication of research results in international peer-reviewed journals, as well as communication and collaboration with project partners and other relevant stakeholders.

The following qualifications are required:

- A university degree in ecology or biology, preferably with a focus on zoology and/or ecology
- Experience in terrestrial ecology
- Strong statistical skills and experience working with R
- Willingness to familiarize oneself with analytical methods and molecular data sources
- Good English language skills
- A driver's license and your own vehicle (Reimbursement of expenses based on a flat rate per kilometer.) are useful for any field research that may be required if the company vehicle is not available.

The position is intended to serve the qualification of young academics and offers the opportunity to pursue a doctorate. JMU aims to reduce the underrepresentation of women and therefore explicitly encourages qualified women to apply. Severely handicapped applicants will be given preferential consideration in the case of broadly equal suitability, ability and professional achievements.

The closing date for applications is **12 July 2026**. Please submit your application, including all relevant supporting documents (motivation letter, CV, certificates, transcripts, and other relevant documents), preferably by email as a single PDF file - to ökologische-station@uni-wuerzburg.de. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Mareike Kortmann on +49 931 31-87703 or at mareike.kortmann@uni-wuerzburg.de.

Please do not send any original documents to us; only send photocopies. As we need to save costs, we will not be able to return your documents to you. They will be shredded shortly after a hiring decision has been made. If you enclose a postage-paid return envelope, we will return your application documents to you three months after a hiring decision has been made.

Postal address: Ökologische Station Fabrikschleichach, Glashüttenstr. 5, 96181 Rauhenebrach