

PROFESSORSHIP (OPEN RANK) IN ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

The Faculty of Science and Medicine of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, announces the opening of an open rank position of **Professor in Environmental Biology** (teaching domain Ecology and Evolution) in the Department of Biology.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

We seek a colleague with an outstanding scientific track record in the field of fundamental ecological research with potential applied aspects using quantitative, state-of-the-art approaches, possibly including an evolutionary perspective. Topics of interest are, but are not limited to, agroecology, biological control, biodiversity, conservation biology, global change biology, or invasion biology. Qualified applicants must have a clear research and teaching vision and proven teaching and communication skills. This position includes teaching at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels; it requires fluency in English and the willingness to acquire French and/or German. The candidate is expected to contribute to the future master program in "Environmental Biology – From Genes to Ecosystems" and/or to the existing master program in "Bioinformatics and Computational Biology". The successful candidate will develop an internationally recognized competitive research programme sustained by external funding. The position may be filled at the level of Assistant Professor (tenure track) or Full Professor (tenured). The University of Fribourg is an equal opportunity employer and strives to increase the number of women in the faculty - applications from qualified female scientists are therefore particularly encouraged.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Hard copies of the following documents should be forwarded to the mailing address below:

1. a cover / motivation letter mentioning the position for which the candidate is applying (Professor of Environmental Biology)
2. a complete curriculum vitae, including a copy of the diploma of the highest degree
3. a full publication list (highlighting specifically the 5 most important contributions)
4. a record of past and present funding
5. a 2-page statement of future research plans
6. a statement and record of teaching experience and interests
7. the names and full contact details of three persons who can be contacted as referees

Deadline: the applications have to reach the Dean's office before June 30.

Prof. Gregor Rainer
Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Medicine
University of Fribourg
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CH-1700 FRIBOURG / Switzerland

Please also send an **electronic version of the application** ("**name.pdf**") and PDF versions of the 5 most relevant publications ("**name-papers.pdf**") to the Faculty Administrator at the Dean's Office (franziska.schumacher@unifr.ch ; CC: dean-scimed@unifr.ch) and specify as subject of the email "PROFESSOR POSITION IN ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY".

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Biology (<https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/>) is organized into 5 teaching domains that represent the full breadth of biology: Biochemistry, Bioinformatics and Computation Biology, Ecology & Evolution, Neurobiology and Developmental Biology, and Plant and Microbial Sciences. It has a very flat hierarchy and aims to fairly share the resources among individual research groups. The Department currently consists of 28 research groups, 13 of which are headed by permanent (or tenure-track) professors; 4 by ERC or SNSF-funded professors, SNSF PRIMA and SNSF Ambizione fellows; 7 by permanent group leaders; and 3 by non-permanent group leaders. Many research groups are arranged around common research platforms (core facilities) that play a vital role in the continuous attraction of third-party funded projects and SNSF-financed professors and research fellows and ERC grantees. The Department of Biology has state-of-the-art facilities including a Metabolomics and Proteomics platform, a Bioinformatics / Statistics platform as well as an Imaging / Microscopy platform, the latter two being shared with the Section of Medicine. In addition, the Department of Biology and the Section of Medicine share an animal facility coordinated by the Dean's Office. Our close vicinity to the Universities of Bern, Neuchâtel and Lausanne also offer significant collaborative synergy in terms of both research and teaching. Because of its growth, the Department has recently been granted additional space in the former Cantonal Laboratory. Once the building has been renovated (planned for September 2021), the new space will allow the Department to continue its successful growth and to expand its teaching and research subjects further.

Study programmes

The Department of Biology offers two bachelor programs (*Biochemistry* and *Biology*) and two master programs (*Biology* with four thematic options and *Bioinformatics and Computational Biology*). A revision of the master curricula is scheduled for Fall 2021. From Fall 2021, there will be three master programs: *Environmental Biology - from Genes to Ecosystems*, *Molecular Life and Health Science*, and *Bioinformatics and Computational Biology*. The study plan of the BSc in biology allows 2 options called Biology I and Biology II. Both options share the same core program in the first year. Starting with the 3rd semester the students follow the curriculum of the chosen option (<https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/studies/bachelor/bsc-in-biology/>): Biology I: Ecology, Evolution and Plant Biology; and Biology II: Molecular Biology, Neurobiology and Developmental Biology. The Biology Master is divided into 4 options that reflect the major research activities of the respective teaching domains (see also: <https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/studies/master/msc-in-biology/>): Biochemistry; Animal Molecular Lifesciences; Ecology and Evolution; Plant and Microbial Sciences. For the Master programme in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, offered together with the University of Bern, see <https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/studies/master/msc-in-bioinformatics/>

Research

Research at the Department of Biology is divided into five main research areas (Biochemistry, Bioinformatics and Computation Biology, Ecology & Evolution, Neurobiology and Developmental Biology, and Plant and Microbial Sciences). For details of the research activities in the Department see <https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/research/>; for details on the research in the Ecology and Evolution domain see here: <https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/research/eco-evol/>. In brief, ecological and evolutionary research in the Department is focused on Community Ecology, Invasion Biology, Conservation Biology, Evolutionary Genomics and Evolutionary Genetics, Statistical and Dynamical Modelling in Ecology, Theoretical Ecology, and Integrative Behavioral Biology.

Languages

The University of Fribourg is bilingual. Teaching to biology students at the Bachelor level is given either in French or in German; teaching at the Master and PhD level is given in English. Undergraduate students are expected to understand both French and German, but can take their exams in either language. Candidates are expected to have a working knowledge of all three languages or be willing to acquire such knowledge within a few years.

INFRASTRUCTURE, POSITIONS AND FUNDING

Infrastructure

The candidate will receive laboratory workspace (for 5-10 researchers; additional lab space is negotiable). The candidate will have access to state-of-the-art shared infrastructure at the Department which is maintained by a technical support group. As a member of Ecology and Evolution domain, the candidate will have shared access to a wet lab, a molecular lab, greenhouse and common gardens, and cars for field research. The Department also hosts a state-of-the-art Imaging Facility, a Metabolomics & Proteomics Platform, and a Bioinformatics Platform (<https://www3.unifr.ch/bio/en/services/facilities>). The Department also collaborates closely with the Interfaculty Bioinformatics Unit (<https://www.bioinformatics.unibe.ch/>) and the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Platform at the University of Bern (<https://www.ngs.unibe.ch/>).

The University's computer service supplies all Departmental members (academic and technical staff) with state-of-the-art PCs or Macs and appropriate word processing, reference, statistical and graphics software. Specific research software can also be supported for research purposes.

Personnel and financial resources

The new Professor will receive the following dotation:

- a 100% postdoc position
- a 50% lab technician position
- shared support by administrative assistants
- an installation (start-up) credit for research activities amounting to CHF 100,000
- an annual share of the department's operating budget (for consumables and equipment), calculated according to standard procedures of the Department of Biology
- Computational resources will be at the new professor's disposal
- Potentially more resources might be negotiable

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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