

PhD opportunity on the digital transformation in nature conservation and outdoor sports

PhD position (m/f/d), TV-L E 13 (65%)
Field: Sport Ecology

Research Area and Project Description: The aim of this PhD project is to use the potential of digitization in outdoor sports for enhancing the interaction between outdoor sports and ecological systems. Outdoor sports and recreational activities are gaining popularity with increasing impact on natural systems. Technological advances and enhanced mobility change the footprint that recreational activities leave on the landscape. Relevant information for nature conservation is often difficult to access and incomprehensible for people in outdoor sports due to complex regulations and regional differences. The PhD project is embedded in a cooperative project aiming at the development, implementation and evaluation of a "Digital Ranger" that provides outdoor athletes with easy to access and user-friendly information about nature (protection) and safety and thus promotes sustainable behaviour in ecological systems. One central aspect of the PhD is developing and evaluating alternative solutions for informational add-ons in digital outdoor platforms for improving the interaction of outdoor sports with nature.

Qualifications and Specific Competences: The PhD project integrates elements of conservation ecology, computer science, psychology and sport science. We thus seek an excellent, highly motivated candidate with an MSc in Ecology, Psychology, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Sports Science, Biology, Geography or related fields. We expect a strong interest in ecology, outdoor sports and digital transformation. The successful candidate should have solid experience with data analyses, strong collaborative skills, and good skills in English and German. Having worked in programming outdoor applications would be beneficial.

Topic and supervisor: We offer a fully funded PhD position in an interdisciplinary team and strong support for your career. The position is embedded in a research collaboration between leading providers of outdoor platforms (Outdooractive; Digitize the Planet), nature conservation (Naturparke Fichtelgebirge and Nagelfluhkette) as well as universities (Bayreuth and Treuchtlingen). The PhD candidate is encouraged to collaborate within the group and further expand activities with relevant stakeholders. The project will support research visits to collaborators and field trips.

Place of Employment and Work: The place of employment and work is in the section of Sport Ecology at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. The University of Bayreuth has earned an international reputation for its uniquely interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching and has strong research groups in ecology and sports. The direct surroundings including the Frankenjura and the Fichtelgebirge offer attractive opportunities for outdoor sports in research and in leisure. Part of the PhD position is field work with collaborators including the Naturparke Fichtelgebirge and Nagelfluhkette.

Salary: The salary is based on the public salary scale TV-L E 13 (65%). The PhD position will be funded for three years (subject to a final funding decision).

Contact and application: Please apply **online** via the [Applicant portal Uni Bayreuth](#) with meaningful application documents selecting "PhD Sport Ecology" from the drop-down menu. **Application deadline October 11th, 2021.**

The documents will be deleted after the position has been filled in accordance with data protection requirements.

For further information please contact Professor Dr. Manuel Steinbauer, phone +49 921 55 5834, e-mail: Manuel.Steinbauer@uni-bayreuth.de.

The University of Bayreuth values the diversity of its employees and is explicitly committed to the goal of gender equality. Women are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants with children are very welcome. The University of Bayreuth is a member of the Best Practice Network "Familie in der Hochschule e.V.", and has successfully participated in the HRK audit "Internationalization of the University". Persons with severe disabilities will be given preferential consideration if equally qualified.