



The University of Bayreuth is a research-oriented university with internationally competitive and interdisciplinary profile fields in research and teaching. The professorship of Sports Ecology offers the following opportunity:

PhD or PostDoc opportunity (m/f/d) in Wildlife Ecology and Quantitative Methods

PhD or PostDoc position (m/f/d), TV-L E 13 (65%)

Field: Wildlife Ecology

Research Area and Project Description: The use of digital technologies is revolutionizing the capabilities of wildlife research and management. The aim of this project is to utilize the potential of deep learning for the classification of photos taken by wildlife camera traps. The collected data allows a detailed insight into wildlife and visitor activity in the study area “Veldensteiner Forst” in Bavaria, Germany, and is well suited for simultaneously quantifying spatiotemporal changes in the interaction of herbivore, meso-carnivores and larger predators (mainly wolves) with constant human activity (tourism and hunting). The project builds on established methodological routines and extends an existing large-scale network of wildlife cameras that have been running continuously for several years to address research questions related to species interactions, biodiversity conservation and human landscape use.

Qualifications and Specific Competences: We seek an excellent, highly motivated candidate with at least a MSc in Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Forestry, Biology or related fields with a strong interest in data science, remote sensing and modern quantitative methods. The successful candidate should have profound experience with statistics and the R statistical environment, strong collaborative skills, good skills in English and the willingness to work outdoors.

Topic and supervisors: We offer a fully funded PhD or PostDoc position in an interdisciplinary team and strong support for your scientific career. The position combines fundamental research questions with immediate wildlife management applications. The project group includes Prof. Manuel Steinbauer (Sport Ecology, University of Bayreuth), Dr. Wibke Peters and Dr. Hendrik Edelhoff (Bavarian State Institute for forestry, LWF) and Dr. Ludwig Bothmann (Statistical Learning and Data Science, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich). The project will support research visits to international collaborators and field work. Active cooperation with nature reserves and local management agencies will facilitate your career.

Place of Employment and Work: The place of employment and work is the section of Sport Ecology at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. The research group on sport ecology has a strong focus on interdisciplinary work and modern quantitative methods. The candidate is encouraged to collaborate within the group, across departments and with other universities and institutions. The University of Bayreuth has earned an international reputation for its uniquely interdisciplinary approach in research and teaching and has strong research groups in ecology. The direct surroundings including the Frankenjura and the Fichtelgebirge offer attractive opportunities for outdoor sports in research and in leisure.

Salary and starting date: The PhD position will be funded for 1 + 3 years with a E13 (65%) payment scale. The position and payment could alternatively be adapted for a PostDoc for 3.5 years. The University of Bayreuth values the diversity of its employees as an enrichment and is expressly committed to the goal of equal opportunities for men and women. Women are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants with children are welcome. The University of Bayreuth is a member of the Best Practice Club "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.

Contact and application: Please apply online with meaningful application documents using the password "Wildlife Ecology" via our [application portal](#) of the University of Bayreuth. The application should shortly outline the idea for a possible direction of the PhD topic. Application deadline is February 28th, 2023. The documents will be deleted after the position has been filled in accordance with data protection requirements. Applicants seeking further information are invited to contact Professor Steinbauer (phone +49 921 55 5834, e-mail: Manuel.Steinbauer@uni-bayreuth.de).

