



PhD opportunity in quantitative sport ecology - interactions of outdoor sport with ecological systems

(wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in (m/w/d) mit Promotionsziel, Bes.Gr. E 13/2 BayBesG)
Field: Sport Ecology

Research Area and Project Description: Outdoor sport and recreational activities are gaining in popularity with increasing impact on natural systems. Technological advances and enhanced mobility change the footprint that recreational activities like mountain e-biking, skiing, rock climbing or water sports leave on the landscape. The growing pressure particularly affects fragile ecosystems on oceanic islands and mountains where areas attractive for outdoor sport activities and preferred by sportspeople harbour an enormous diversity of unique endemic species endangered from extinction. But sport activities may also facilitate awareness for environmental concern as for many people, outdoor sport has become the primary way to experience and enjoy nature. Enhancing our understanding of the complex and dynamic relationship between sport activities and the natural environment is therefore increasingly important for safeguarding the diversity of life and the associated ecological services on which our society depends.

Sport and ecology are among those fields with the largest increase in data availability. Movement data, remote sensing products, AI analysed photos and social networks provide new powerful data to quantify the complex interrelations between nature and sport and may help to prevent conflicts and inform an effective nature conservation and landscape management. Using the potential of these novel quantitative information could be a major focus of your PhD.

Qualifications and Specific Competences: We seek an excellent, highly motivated candidate with an MSc in Ecology, Environmental Science, Sports Science, Biology, Geography or related fields. We expect a strong interest in ecology, outdoor sports and modern quantitative methods. The successful candidate should have solid experience with statistics and the R statistical environment, strong collaborative skills, and good skills in English. Having worked with movement data, remote sensing or automated pattern recognition would be beneficial. Working language will be English. Language skills in Spanish, French or Portuguese and the willingness to work in island or mountain ecosystems are an advantage.

Topic and supervisor: We offer a fully funded PhD positions in a young, interdisciplinary team and strong support for your scientific career. The position is not associated to a specific project and your PhD topic will be developed jointly with you and the supervisor Prof. Manuel Steinbauer within the above outlined field of sport ecology. The research group on sport ecology has a strong focus on interdisciplinary work, modern quantitative methods and island ecosystems. The PhD candidate are encouraged to collaborate within the group, across departments and with other universities. The project will support research visits to international collaborators and possible field trips. Active cooperation with nature reserves, manufacturers of sports equipment and nature as well as sport federations will facilitate your PhD.

Place of Employment and Work: The place of employment and work is 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.

Salary and starting date: The PhD position will be funded for three years with a E13/2 (50%) payment scale. The position is associated with minor teaching in ecology or outdoor sports (2.5 hours per week during semester terms). Shortlisting will start on 20th September and continue until the position is filled. The candidate can be employed as early as possible thereafter.

Contact and application: Applicants seeking further information are invited to contact: Professor Manuel Steinbauer, phone +49 921 55 3478, e-mail: Manuel.Steinbauer@uni-bayreuth.de. Please use the same address to submit your application as one single pdf file. The application should shortly outline your idea for a possible direction of your PhD topic.

The University of Bayreuth seeks to increase the proportion of women involved in research and teaching and therefore particularly welcomes female applicants. All qualifications being equal, severely disabled applicants will be given priority.