

PhD stipend (Universität Hohenheim)

Application deadline: 19/01/2024

The *Department of Landscape Ecology and Vegetation Science* at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart (<https://ecology.uni-hohenheim.de/en/67896>) is seeking applicants for a PhD stipend in the interdisciplinary doctoral college "Leverage points for a Transformation of Agricultural Landscapes: from Biodiversity Loss to Biodiversity Enhancement" (HABIT; <https://habit.uni-hohenheim.de/en>). This PhD project will be supervised by Prof Frank Schurr (Hohenheim) and Prof Mirijam Gaertner (Nürtingen-Geislingen University). The envisaged starting date is 1 April 2024.

Biodiversity loss in farmlands is supposed to be counteracted by a variety of measures, including agri-environmental schemes, the protection of extensively managed habitats, the establishment of habitat networks and changes in farming practices. Still, it is insufficiently understood whether and how these measures contribute to the conservation of farmland biodiversity. This PhD project will address this knowledge gap for farmland birds by combining large-scale and long-term data sets on bird abundance and distribution with detailed information on land use. The project will be conducted in close cooperation with other subprojects focusing on arable plants, insects and social ecology.

Your profile

We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic scientist to join our group. Applicants must hold a MSc in ecology, biology, agricultural science or related disciplines. You should have good knowledge of ecological statistics (using R), good writing and communication skills. Fluency in written and spoken English is expected. Knowledge of bird ecology and bird identification is advantageous.

Your tasks

- Analysis of data on populations trends of farmland birds with advanced statistical methods
- Active participation in the doctoral college with regular presentations of one's own research status
- Publication of research results in the scientific literature and presentation on scientific conferences

Additional benefits

We offer a PhD opportunity in a topical research area of high societal relevance. HABIT comprises twelve doctoral projects that are embedded in a social-ecological systems perspective. It is a joint project of the University of Hohenheim (UHOH) and the Nürtingen-Geislingen University of Applied Sciences (HfWU). We offer intensive interdisciplinary networking, exchange visits between the partner universities, and professional and methodological qualification offers by the Graduate School of the University of Hohenheim. The University of Hohenheim is located on a beautiful campus in Stuttgart, which offers a rich cultural life and attractive surroundings.

The scholarship is granted for a period of three years. It currently includes a standard rate of 1,200 €/month (1,360 € with a child or 1,410 € with two or more children). Should this rate not increase in the coming months, we aim to top up the scholarship by up to 25%. The college also provides further funding opportunities, e.g. for conference visits.

Application

Please apply via the University of Hohenheim portal ([link](#)) by **19/01/2024**. Your application (in a single .pdf-file) should include a cover letter, a curriculum vitae and a letter of motivation (1-2 pages) detailing why you want to do a PhD, what your scientific experience is, what you find interesting about the PhD project and which ideas you have for developing a research project on the topic. The .pdf file should also include university and high school diplomas, a summary of your MSc thesis and, if available, letters of recommendation from previous supervisors. Finally, please fill in this [form](#) and join it to the pdf file.

The University of Hohenheim aims to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching and strongly encourages qualified female scientists to apply. In case of equal suitability, applicants with disabilities will be given preferential consideration.

For further information, please contact

Prof. Dr. Frank Schurr (frank.schurr@uni-hohenheim.de) or Prof. Mirijam Gaertner (Mirijam.Gaertner@hfwu.de)