



The Centre for Statistics at the Georg-August-University Goettingen in Germany, is currently inviting applications for

**1 PhD Position in Macroecology
(75 % E 13 TV-L)**

within the Research Training Group (RTG) 1644 ‘Scaling Problems in Statistics’, starting October 1, 2016. The position is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for 3 years.

The highly interdisciplinary Research Training Group aims to solve current questions in the areas of agricultural economics, ecology, econometrics, genetics, and remote sensing by means of statistical methods, and at the development thereof. It distinguishes itself through joint supervision and a structured study program consisting of methodologically oriented lectures, interdisciplinary research seminars, and skills courses, as well as including a career enhancement program for female PhD students.

The Research Training Group involves working groups from agroecology, agricultural economics and rural development, animal breeding and genetics, ecosystem modelling, forest inventory and remote sensing, genetic epidemiology, statistics and econometrics. For more information, visit www.uni-goettingen.de/rtg1644. The advertised position is located in the **Biodiversity, Macroecology and Biogeography group** with **Prof. Dr. Holger Kreft** (www.uni-goettingen.de/biodiversity).

The research project is titled ‘**Spatial and temporal scaling of biodiversity and environment**’. Environmental conditions vary across a wide range of temporal and spatial scales. Understanding how this affects the distributions of individuals and species is vital for our general understanding of emergent properties such as species diversity or endemism. The main aim of this project is to develop and apply novel methods to quantify environmental heterogeneity across scales and to establish scaling relationships between area, time and environmental heterogeneity that can be applied to study macroecological and biogeographical patterns and processes. To this end, oceanic islands will serve as a model system, and the PhD project will take advantage of unique macroecological data sets of island plants worldwide (see e.g. Weigelt et al. 2003, PNAS; Weigelt et al. 2015, Scientific reports). For more details, visit www.uni-goettingen.de/rtg1644/jobs.

By the time of appointment, the successful candidate will already have completed a M.Sc. degree or equivalent in ecological sciences, biological sciences, or a related field with skills/ knowledge in ecological concepts, statistics, programming and geographical information systems. Very good knowledge of English is required.

The Georg-August-University is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply as they are underrepresented in this field.

The University firmly intends to raise the number of disabled persons in its employment. In the case of equally qualified applicants, disabled persons will be preferentially considered.

To apply for this position, please upload your application via the online application site https://s-lotus.gwdg.de/uni/uwfb/grk_1644.nsf/enter. Further application details are available on this

webpage. The closing date for applications is May 15, 2016.

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