



Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences



## 2. Microplastics Interaction with Methylmercury Ecotoxicology in Zooplankton

Master students and interns are encouraged to apply for this project to work with the interaction of methylmercury and microplastics exposure on the bioaccumulation and ecotoxicology of mercury in zooplankton (*Daphnia sp.*).

Urban and industrial areas are “hotspots” of microplastics in lakes and streams. Such ecosystems are also contaminated with other chemicals, including mercury. This raises special concern because mercury is toxic at such low aqueous concentrations and the organic form of mercury, methylmercury, is biomagnified in food webs, posing exposure risks to wild life and humans. To the best of our knowledge, the aquatic ecotoxicological effects resulting from the simultaneous exposure to microplastics and mercury have not been investigated at the base of the aquatic food web. We are looking for 2 students share in the experiment as the basis for master thesis or internship.

The lab experiment will be carried out from May to August 2018 at the limnological research station run by WasserCluster Lunz (<http://www.wasserkluster-lunz.ac.at/index.php/en/>) in the Austrian Alps. Master students / interns that are interested in the research topic are welcome to contact us if you have further questions. And for those who are registered at universities within EU countries outside of Austria may apply for a Youth Mobility Erasmus+ scholarship <https://www.mucf.se/ansokan-inom-erasmus> (in Swedish), or <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/web-eforms/> (English) for this project work before 15 Feb 2018.

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