



PhD position in bryophyte ecology with the Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences

The Faculty of Life- and Environmental Sciences at the University of Iceland is seeking a motivated candidate for the project: Bryophytes as ecosystem engineers in a changing tundra. The position is funded by the University of Iceland Research Fund for three years. The PhD project will be linked to larger funded projects.

Short description of the project

Bryophytes are a major component in many tundra plant communities and potentially have multiple effects on the physical environment of tundra ecosystems as well as providing a habitat for diverse organisms building complex food webs. The aim of the PhD project is to investigate bryophyte functional traits, including the microbial/micro faunal traits, that drive ecosystem processes in tundra rangelands of Iceland (above potential tree line), and how they vary between Bryophyte Functional Groups, climatic condition, and herbivory. Within that framework the successful candidate will be given the opportunity to formulate relevant research questions.

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Qualification requirements

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate with who has:

- M.Sc. degree in in biology, ecology, or a related field
- Background knowledge in terrestrial ecology
- Good skills in statistics
- Excellent English, both written and spoken
- Good planning and organization skills
- Good communication and teamwork skills
- Good ability to work independently

In addition to the above requirements, it is desirable to have:

- Good botanical and zoological (invertebrate) knowledge
- Experience in microbial research, including application of molecular methods
- Experience of fieldwork under harsh demanding conditions (Arctic, alpine)

Application process

The PhD student is expected to start January 2023.

The application shall include:

- A short letter (max. 3 pages) where the candidates provide their motivation for pursuing a PhD degree within the advertised position and a vision on how it may contribute to the candidate future.
- CV (curriculum vitae) including details on education and research and work experience
- Publication list (if any)
- Certificates of education (undergraduate and MSc degree) and course transcripts with grades.
- Contact information of two reference persons and their relationships to the applicant
- (Optional) Applicants are also invited to send PDF of MS thesis (in any language) and any other relevant publications if available (max. 5 documents).

The selected candidate must send a formal application for PhD studentship at the University of Iceland and the position is dependent on acceptance into the PhD program within the Faculty of life and Environmental Sciences.

The advisory committee will consist of Ingibjörg Svala Jónsdóttir (main supervisor) and Snæbjörn Pálsson at the University of Iceland, Oddur Vilhelmsson at the University of Akureyri, Signe Lett and Kathrin Rousk at Copenhagen University.

All applications will be answered and applicants will be notified of the employment decision when a final decision has been made. Applications will be valid for six months from the end of the application deadline. Appointments to positions at the University of Iceland are made in

consideration of the Equal Rights Policy of the University of Iceland
- <https://english.hi.is/node/50017>

The University of Iceland has a special Language Policy
- <https://english.hi.is/node/24581/>

The University of Iceland is a growing community of knowledge and is a very dynamic and interesting workplace. Our values are academic freedom, professionalism and equality. The University strives to provide flexibility and encourages participation in the progression of the studies and research in all fields within the realm of the University.

The School of Engineering and Natural Sciences employs ca. 390 people involved with teaching and research. The School offers an international working environment, with the number of international employees and students increasing each year. Currently about quarter of all employees and graduate students are international. The school has around 2000 students and numerous graduate students. The School of Engineering and Natural Sciences is proud of its diversity and reform-minded environment where knowledge acquisition and sharing is paramount.

Application deadline

Application deadline is 18.11.2022

For further information contact

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Apply now