



18 PhD positions in the area of tree biodiversity-ecosystem functioning (BEF) research within the International Research Training Group TreeDi (Germany/China)

University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) in cooperation with Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) and its partner universities Friedrich Schiller University Jena (FSU) and University of Leipzig (UL) are jointly starting the new International Research Training Group **TreeDi - Tree Diversity Interactions: The role of tree-tree interactions in local neighborhoods in Chinese subtropical forests** (www.treedidi.de). TreeDi offers 18 positions for doctoral researchers, each 9 on the German and Chinese side, addressing synergistically how tree-tree interactions in local neighborhoods translate into tree species richness effects on ecosystem functions at the community scale. Research platform is the tree biodiversity-ecosystem functioning experiment "BEF-China" located in Jiangxi Province, southeast China. The International Research Training Group features an international qualification programme involving an intensive Chinese-German cultural exchange during a 6-month research visit in the partner's lab countries, a joint PhD advisory committee and unique offers to meet, study and discuss with figureheads in biodiversity research.

Host institution for doctoral researchers accepted in projects announced by the German side will be the **German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig** (www.idiv.de). The Centre is located in the city of Leipzig and is a joint institute of MLU, FSU, UL, and the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). The concept of iDiv encompasses the detection of biodiversity, understanding its emergence, exploring its consequences for ecosystem functions and services, and developing strategies to safeguard biodiversity under global change. Under one roof, 150 scientists and 45 support staff, associated with eight chair professor positions, four junior research groups and central services (IT, eco- and bioinformatics, mechanics workshop, greenhouses) collaborate to achieve iDiv's central mission.

Host institution for doctoral researchers accepted in projects announced by the Chinese side will be the **University of Chinese Academy of Sciences** (<http://englishucas.ac.cn>). UCAS is located in Beijing and belongs to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), which is China's highest academic institution in natural sciences, the highest consultant institution in science and technology, research and development center of natural science and high technology, and the most important training base for advanced scientific talents. UCAS focuses on graduate education and its predecessor was the Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the first graduate school in China. Being the largest graduate education institution, UCAS's mission is to cultivate innovative leading talents in science and technology for the future of the nation. Currently there are 373 professional instructors at UCAS, as well as 1,551 invited professors from 114 CAS institutes with a wide range of expertise. The TreeDi programme will be affiliated to the College of Life Sciences at UCAS.

Within the International Research Training Group TreeDi we offer the following positions:

Doctoral Researcher

18 positions

Starting date: 01 June, 2018

Positions offered by the German side are detailed on

https://www.idiv.de/en/about_idiv/career.html

Positions offered by the Chinese side are detailed on

<http://english.ucas.ac.cn/index.php/announcements/4688-18-Treedi>

P1: Spatial above- and belowground complementarity

PIs: Prof. Dr. Goddert von Oheimb, Prof. Dr. Werner Härdtle, Prof. Dr. Keping Ma, Dr. Xiaojuan Liu

P2: Complementarity through trait variation

PIs: Dr. Sylvia Haider, Prof. Dr. Stan Harpole, Dr. Zeqin Ma, Dr. Wensheng Bu

P3: Tree interaction history and temporal complementarity

PIs: Prof. Dr. Christian Wirth, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bauhus, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhiyao Tang

P4: Herbivory

PIs: PD Dr. Andreas Schuldt, Prof. Dr. Chaodong Zhu, Dr. Douglas Chesters

P5: Leaf fungal pathogens

PIs: Prof. Dr. Helge Bruelheide, Prof. Dr. Xiaoyong Cui

P6: Complementarity in root functions

PIs: Prof. Dr. Nicole van Dam, Prof. Dr. Dierck Scheel, Prof. Dr. Xingliang Xu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Naili Zhang

P7: Rhizosphere and root microbes

PIs: Dr. Tesfaye Wubet, Prof. Dr. Liangdong Guo

P8: Functional diversity of soil organisms

PIs: Dr. Simone Cesarz, Prof. Dr. Nico Eisenhauer, Prof. Dr. Yanfen Wang, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kai Xue

P9: Modeling generalised diversity interactions

PIs: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Brose, Prof. Dr. Weiguo Sang

We offer:

- Cutting-edge research projects in one of the largest tree diversity experiments
- Outstanding and integrative research environment offering many networking opportunities
- Individual supervision by internationally recognized scientists in BEF research
- Tailored international qualification programme

Requirements/expected profile:

- M.Sc degree in ecology, environmental science or a related discipline
- Very good ecological knowledge and great interest in forest biodiversity research
- Good quantitative and statistical skills in R are essential
- Fluent in English communication, including writing and speaking. Knowledge of German and/or Chinese is an advantage
- Motivated to be a proactive team player in an international research consortium.
- Applicants must be prepared to spend substantial time abroad for field work and lab visits
- Willingness to work under subtropical field conditions. Field work experience would be advantageous.

Applications are accepted until 31 January, 2018.

All applications should include:

- Letter of up to 2 pages explaining motivation, research interests & relevant experience
- Curriculum vitae in tabular form
- MA/BA/Diploma certificates
- Name and contact information of 2 references

For positions on the German side, submit your application only in English and via our application portal under apply.idiv.de

Applicants can apply for up to three positions, with tailored motivation letter for each position. Please mention reference file numbers when applying.

For positions on the Chinese side, submit your application only in English to treediapply@ucas.ac.cn

Applicants can apply for up to three positions, with tailored motivation letter for each position. Please note that Chinese applicants will still need to follow the normal student recruit procedure as instructed on the following website: <http://admission.ucas.ac.cn>. International applicants will need to follow the procedure on the following website: <http://english.ucas.ac.cn/index.php/admission/international-students/phd-programs>

Severely disabled persons are encouraged to apply and will be given preference in the case of equal suitability. Selected candidates will be invited to the joint recruitment symposium taking place at iDiv in Leipzig (Germany) on **March 1-2, 2018**. For queries on the application process, please contact stefan.trogisch@botanik.uni-halle.de at iDiv or Prof. Yanfen Wang (yfwang@ucas.ac.cn) at UCAS.