

Call for a Research Assistant in ecology

One research assistant position is available at the Department of Ecology of the W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences in the project "**Adaptation of *Arabidopsis halleri* to metal-polluted soils: linking environmental, genomic, and phenotypic information**" (<https://info.botany.pl/ariadna/>).

The position is funded by the Foundation for Polish Science through the POWROTY/REINTEGRATION programme.

Duration: 6 months (with possibility to be extended)
Salary/month: 6'500 PLN (gross)/month (health insurance and social benefits included)

Application deadline: 15th of February 2019

Expected start date: Feb/March 2019

Project leader: dr Alicja Babst-Kostecka

Description:

This project investigates the adaptation of the model species *A. halleri* to metal polluted soils. Our team aims to understand metal tolerance and accumulation processes by combining field and laboratory experiments. We are studying the genetic, physiological, and ecological mechanisms that allow this species to survive and reproduce in heavily contaminated post-mining areas. Our work is situated at the forefront of ecological research and will enable the successful candidates to gain experience in a variety of scientific approaches and techniques.

Key responsibilities include:

The successful candidate will obtain a number of plant and soil samples (together with corresponding digital data) from the phenotyping experiments to thoroughly characterize and test the root architecture structure and plant-microbe interactions. We expect to gain deep insight in the relation between soil microbiome diversity, metal uptake and plant growth.

Requirements:

- PhD or Master's degree in ecology, biology, environmental protection, or a related field.
- Strong motivation and interest in scientific work, including fieldwork, lab work, data analysis, publication, and dissemination in an international setting.
- Excellent spoken and written English.
- Excellent communication and organizational skills.

Desired skills:

- Experience in root phenotyping analysis.
- Experience in writing scientific papers.

To apply:

Please send the following documents to Dr Babst-Kostecka (a.kostecka@botany.pl):

1. Cover letter (max 1 page)*
2. CV (max 5 pages)
3. pdf of your PhD or Master's thesis
4. PhD or Master's diploma

Optional contact information for a professional reference may be added.

Selected candidates will be invited to a personal or Skype interview. The interview will take place on **18-19th of February 2019** at the Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Lubicz 46, 31-512 Kraków, Poland.

* Please include in your offer the following personal data processing statement:

"I hereby give consent for my personal data included in my job application to be processed by the W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences for the purposes of the recruitment process under the Personal Data Protection Act as of 29 August 1997, consolidated text: Journal of Laws 2016, item 922 as amended."

Applicants will be selected solely based on their qualifications. No attention will be paid to race, color, religion, origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or any other personal characteristics.

For further information please contact Dr Alicja Babst-Kostecka (a.kostecka@botany.pl, +48 12 424 17 70) and/or visit <http://info.botany.pl/ariadna/>.