Two PhD student positions at WasserCluster Lunz

The inter-university center for aquatic ecosystem research, WasserCluster Lunz, Austria (www.wcl.ac.at) seeks to hire two research assistants/PhD candidates focusing on effects of resource and organismal diversity on decomposition of particulate organic matter with a focus on benthic invertebrate fauna (first candidate) or microorganisms (second candidate). The successful candidates will conduct joint laboratory experiments on this topic, and pursue PhD studies at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna and the University of Vienna, respectively.

The ultimate aim of the project is to explore biodiversity-ecosystem functioning relationships in streams focusing on the importance of resource (leaf litter) diversity and benthic invertebrate fauna (shredder) diversity on nutrient and carbon cycling in streams. Several laboratory experiments will be conducted with variable litter type diversity and shredder diversity to study the effects on production and decomposition of particulate organic matter. One candidate should have a background in benthic invertebrate biodiversity and ecology (focus shredders) and the other one in the field of aquatic microbial ecology and biogeochemistry or similar (focus microorganisms). We further expect both candidates to have an open-minded personality and the motivation to work in an international team in addition to solid biological knowledge. The candidates are expected to set-up and maintain laboratory experiments, perform laboratory analyses, and publish results in scientific journals. Good verbal and written language skills in English are necessary.

WasserCluster Lunz is a highly interactive inter-university research center for Aquatic Ecosystems Research at Lake Lunz (160 km from Vienna) with an international community of students and researchers. We offer a dynamic research environment comprising experts who conduct fundamental and applied ecological research on aquatic ecosystems from microscopic to catchment scales. We have modern and well-equipped analytical and biochemical laboratories and several in- and outdoor experimental facilities.

Persons with disabilities who meet the required profile criteria are expressly invited to apply for this position. WasserCluster Lunz sees high innovation potential in the diversity of its employees and is committed to diversity as a guiding principle.

For your application, submit a letter of interest, CV including publications, and names of two references, indicate which position you apply for (1: focus benthic invertebrate fauna OR 2: focus microorganisms) and send to Simon Vitecek (simon.vitecek@wcl.ac.at) and Katrin Attermeyer (katrin.attermeyer@wcl.ac.at). Deadline for application is 6th December 2021. Starting date: 1st January 2022 or upon agreement. The duration of the contract will be three years at FWF PhD-salary. During the whole duration of the appointment, the persons will be based at the WasserCluster Lunz in Lunz am See.