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**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

PhD position in plant invasion ecology at the University of Bern, Switzerland

We are looking for a PhD student highly motivated to work on the effect on soil feedback of native and invasive plant species. The work involves multi-species comparison of many native and invasive plants and includes several sampling campaigns in the field, as well as common garden and greenhouse experiments. In addition, there is room for the student to develop own ideas and experiments. Ideally, the candidate should have a background in plant population, experimental, or soil ecology and sound knowledge of statistical methods.

The position will be with Dr. Daniel Prati and Prof. Markus Fischer in the Plant Ecology group at the Institute of Plant Sciences of the University of Bern, Switzerland, (<http://www.botany.unibe.ch/planteco/index.php>). Bern is a beautiful city with a world-heritage old town, offers a high quality of living, and is ideal for hiking or skiing. The institute offers a stimulating international research environment and excellent facilities. In addition to projects on biological invasions, our group is involved in projects on evolutionary ecology, population biology, Alpine ecology, conservation biology, and biodiversity research.

The position is funded by the Swiss National Foundation SNF for 3 years. Salaries range between CHF 39,600.- and 45,600.-. Candidates should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in biology, ecology or botany, a driver's license, fluency in English and good collaboration skills. Working knowledge in German would be advantageous.

Applicants should e-mail a letter of application, a curriculum vitae and contact details of two references to Daniel Prati until October 15, 2009. In the letter of application, the applicant should motivate why she or he wants to do a PhD and why she or he wants to work on invasion biology. The applicant should also present details on her or his experimental and statistical skills. For more information on this position, the project and research in our lab contact Daniel Prati (daniel.prati@ips.unibe.ch).