

One PhD position on assessing aquatic conditions and ecosystem services in Greater Accra Metropolitan Area

PhD position (TV-L HU 13, 50%) for three years.

Starting date: June 1st, 2014

Reference number: DR / 036 / 14

We are seeking to appoint one doctoral researcher to join an interdisciplinary team working on a project entitled: WaterPower - Collision of mega-trends in a west-African coastal city.

The successful applicant will (i) assess the state of aquatic ecosystems in Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA); (ii) examine how rapid urbanization puts pressure on aquatic ecosystems (such as wetland degradation) and (iii) model how future urbanization affects water security. The candidate will address these issues by compiling geographical explicit data on the aquatic conditions of GAMA and develop methods and indicators further in order to examine the critical connection between water security and ecosystem services.

We seek a candidate with an above-average MSc (or equivalent degree) in Geography, Environmental Sciences, Urban Ecology or related fields. We also expect excellent command of the English language, good communication skills, and willingness to work in interdisciplinary research teams. You will have to be flexible and adapt to conditions in the field, and will need empathy for the livelihoods of urban communities in Accra, and the ability to communicate across cultures. Working experience in (West-)Africa is an asset.

Essential skills and experience:

- A MSc degree or equivalent, in Geography, Environmental Sciences or Urban Ecology.
- Strong interest in global change research and sustainability science (including inter- and transdisciplinary methods)
- Excellent knowledge in geographic information systems and modelling techniques.
- Good grounding in the analysis of social-ecological system dynamics, urban ecology and assessment of (aquatic) ecosystem goods and services
- Good statistical knowledge and data management ability, using appropriate programming languages
- Expertise in planning and undertaking socio-ecological fieldwork in the tropics
- Convening participatory processes, stakeholder engagement and a demonstrable aptitude for cross-cultural communication
- Excellent organisational and communication skills
- Proven ability to work independently and efficiently and as a member of an international and interdisciplinary team

We offer a 3-year-position in an international, young and dynamic team in an excellent scientific surrounding. Payment will be according to 13 TV-L HU (50% position). The employment at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin offers all benefits of the German public service, including health insurance. HU Berlin hosts one of Germany's leading Geography Departments, with research foci in Sustainability Science, Land System Science and Urban Studies. Berlin is Germany's largest city with an inspiring metropolitan flair and great scientific networking opportunities. Researchers of all nationalities are welcome to apply. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin strives to increase the share of women in research, is a certified family-friendly university, and strongly encourages women to apply. We are committed to promoting handicapped individuals and applicants with disabilities who are equally qualified will be favoured.

The position will contribute to the research project WaterPower which is funded by Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). WaterPower aims to explore the interactions and dynamics of urbanization, (water) resource governance and impacts of climate change on water security in a rapidly growing coastal city and its critical thresholds. The knowledge generated shall be relevant and approachable for key stakeholders therefore we employ a transdisciplinary research approach. For more information about the project WaterPower please visit <http://www.geographie.hu-berlin.de/abteilungen/klimawandel-und-nachhaltige-entwicklung/projekte/WaterPower>

At the Geography Department, the applicant will join the group [Climate Change and Sustainable Development](#) (Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns). The overall aim of the Climate Change and Sustainability group is to better understand societal relationships with nature. Our aim is to strengthen socio-political perspectives in global change research. Empirically we study resource use and regulation systems (mainly water and energy) on regional to local scales. The group works collaboratively with international researchers and science institutions such as the Integrative Research Institute on Transformations of Human-Environment Systems (IRI THESys) and is an active contributor to international global change networks.

Applications including a letter of motivation, full CV, a 2 page research proposal for the above mentioned field, a writing example of the candidate (e.g., a publication, a part of a thesis), and contact details for two references shall be sent electronically in a single PDF file to Prof. Dr. Antje Bruns (antje.bruns@geo.hu-berlin.de). Please include the reference number in the content line of your email.

Application deadline: May 7th, 2014

Please visit our website www.hu-berlin.de/stellenangebote, which gives you access to the legally binding German version.