

PhD position

“Forensic tracking through eDNA”

Forensics and Population Genetics

We offer a three-year (one year extendable) PhD position for a highly motivated candidate in a joint project between the **Institute of Forensic Medicine (IRM)** and the **Institute of Ecology and Evolution (IEE)** at the University of Bern.

The use of environmental DNA (eDNA) offers great potential for a variety of applications in forensics. The candidate will develop a mapping system for forensic traces based on plant DNA by using phylogeographic analyses of tree species and metabarcoding of soil samples. For the proposed position, we estimate the tasks at 70% sequence data analysis / bioinformatics and 30% field and lab work for obtaining and processing samples.

Your skills and qualifications

- Masters degree in bioinformatics or biology / biochemistry with interest in data analysis
- Proficiency in R and experience in the analysis of sequencing data are strong assets
- Experience in eDNA and/or population genetics are a plus
- Highly motivated, well-organized and able to work autonomously
- Good communication skills in English, German is a plus
- Valid driver's license and willingness to work outdoors for field work

We offer you

- Unique opportunity for research at the interface between population genetics and forensics
- Involvement in all stages of the research project
- Enrollment in the Doctoral Program of the Faculty of Science
- Salary according to the guidelines of the Swiss National Science Foundation

Are you interested?

Specific questions regarding this position can be addressed to: martin.zieger@irm.unibe.ch (www.irm.unibe.ch) or gerald.heckel@iee.unibe.ch (www.cmpg.iee.unibe.ch)

Applications, including a letter of motivation highlighting your project-specific skills, CV, diplomas with grades and two references with e-mail addresses and phone numbers should be sent by email as single PDF to: martin.zieger@irm.unibe.ch

For full consideration, apply by 31st January 2022 Starting date: May 2022 or by arrangement