

PhD student position on aquatic methane (CH₄) cycling at WasserCluster Lunz



The inter-university center for aquatic ecosystem research, WasserCluster Lunz, Austria (www.wcl.ac.at) seeks to hire **one PhD candidate** focusing on benthic microbial processes to assess the drivers of sediment CH₄ production. The PhD is embedded in a collaborative project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) with partners at the University of Vienna and the Global Change Research Institute (CAS) in Czech Republic. The successful candidate will work together with the international team, which will also include two other PhD candidates at the other institutions, to conduct joint field samplings and laboratory experiments. The PhD candidate will complete the PhD studies at the University of Vienna.

The ultimate aim of the project is to develop high-resolution, small-scale environmental data sets paired with geomorphic information within and across different stream ecosystems in parallel with measurements of CH₄ concentrations, fluxes, sediment production, and methanogens that are key to an improved understanding of the global freshwater CH₄ budget. Willingness to conduct fieldwork in stream environments and to travel (to the Czech Republic and within Austria) is required. Several laboratory experiments will be conducted at WasserCluster Lunz under variable environmental conditions to study the drivers of CH₄ production in sediments. The candidate should have a MSc degree with a background in aquatic microbial ecology and biogeochemistry or similar. I further expect the candidates to have an open-minded personality and the motivation to work in an international team in addition to solid aquatic ecology knowledge. The candidate is expected to conduct field work, 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.

For your application, submit a letter of interest and your CV including publications and names of two references and send to Katrin Attermeyer (she/her; katrin.attermeyer@wcl.ac.at). **Deadline for application is 12th April 2024. Preferable starting date is 1st August 2024.** 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.