

Pre-doctoral position in the Integrative Freshwater Group, CEAB-CSIC, Blanes (Spain)

Within the framework of the research project: Impact of Wastewater on Alpine Streams: evaluating mitigating strategies (IWAS), PI: Dr. Stephanie Merbt, financed by the Organisation of Spanish National Parks, we offer a Pre-studentship contract with the following profile:



Brief description of the research project

The overall goal of IWAS is to gain understanding of how wastewater from mountain huts impact on the microbial community composition and biogeochemical cycling in receiving alpine freshwater ecosystems. In particular, we aim to A) provide information on the current situation of waste water management in the alpine Spanish National Parks, B) study the effect of waste water on microbially-mediated nitrogen cycling in the receiving fluvial ecosystems and C) evaluate potential mitigation strategies. The project is divided into a monitoring, experimental and engineering approach and is highly interdisciplinary as it combines the different environmental science fields of biogeochemistry, ecotoxicology, molecular ecology with environmental engineering.

The PhD student shall enrol to the available PhD programmes of either the University of Barcelona or Girona. The position is located at the Center for Advanced Studies (CEAB-CSIC) in Blanes, Spain. The field work includes regular visits to the different sampling points across Spanish mountain National Parks. Advanced molecular biology analyses of microbial community structure and activity will be carried out at University of Lyon (France) in the laboratory of Dr. Graeme Nicol and Dr. Christina Hazard.

Required tasks:

- Conduct high quality research to achieve the project's research goals
- Produce a minimum of three high quality scientific publications
- Present at a minimum of two international conferences
- Participate in outreach activities (social networks and media)
- Interaction with non-governmental organisations

Candidate requirements

- Degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences or related fields
- Interests in ecology, biogeochemistry and molecular ecology
- Ability to carry out field research in alpine areas and laboratory work
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Driving license

Conditions:

- Start date: latest June 2024
- Duration of the contract: indefinite (following Spanish regulations).

Applications:

Please, address applications to: Stephanie.Merbt@ceab.csic.es

With the following documentation:

1. Motivation letter mentioning availability (500 words maximum)
2. Full CV

Please send applications by **April 15, 2024**

We are looking forward to hearing from you!!

