

The Chair of Conservation Biology and Forest Ecology at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany, is inviting applications for a

Researcher Position

in the field of wildlife research. The contract will start on 1 October 2025 and will be for a fixed term to end on 31 December 2028. The position will be part time (0.65 FTE).

Remuneration will be based on the collective agreement for the public service of German federal states (*Tarifvertrag für den öffentlichen Dienst der Länder, TV-L*).

The place of employment will be the Ecological Field Station Fabrikschleichach (<https://www.biozentrum.uni-wuerzburg.de/cofe>) in the first year and may later change to Würzburg.

The project is part of a Bavarian project to assess the current and future Eurasian otter population in Bavaria in different scenarios. All statistical analyses and modelling work will be closely supervised by the research group.

The successful applicant will work in four different areas:

- I. Sampling, statistical analyses to estimate the population size in Bavaria and sustainable harvest numbers
- II. Statistical analyses to analyse local population dynamics and the dynamics of territory re-occupation: estimation of the size and dynamics of local subpopulations on the basis of sex-specific mark and recapture data
- III. Statistical (spatial) analyses of home range sizes and migration distances (through genetic recaptures): using genetic kinship determined through microsatellites to calculate dispersal distances
- IV. Modelling/simulation of population dynamics after harvesting: using individuals-based theoretical models to estimate, on the basis of the current population status, sex ratio, reproduction rates and dispersal distances, how harvesting in the individual parts of Bavaria will affect regional populations and the total population in Bavaria

The following qualifications are required:

- A university degree in ecology or biology (with a focus on zoology or ecology)
- Experience in terrestrial animal and wildlife ecology, data collection in the field and population genetics
- A knowledge of statistics and process-based ecological modelling would be an asset
- Relevant English language skills
- As the position involves conducting fieldwork, candidates must have a driving licence and car.

The position is intended to serve the qualification of young academics and offers the opportunity to pursue a doctorate. JMU aims to reduce the underrepresentation of women and therefore explicitly encourages qualified women to apply. Severely handicapped applicants will be given preferential consideration in the case of broadly equal suitability, ability and professional achievements.

The closing date for applications is **7 September 2025**. Please submit your convincing application and supporting documents - preferably by email in one single PDF file - to oekologische-station@uni-wuerzburg.de. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Oliver Mitesser on +49 931 31-86876 or at oliver.mitesser@uni-wuerzburg.de.

Please do not send any original documents to us; only send photocopies. As we need to save costs, we will not be able to return your documents to you. They will be shredded shortly after a hiring decision has been made. If you enclose a postage-paid return envelope, we will return your application documents to you three months after a hiring decision has been made.



Postal address: Ökologische Station Fabrikschleichach, Glashüttenstr. 5, 96181 Rauhenbrach