



PhD opportunity at TUM – Chair of Soil Science

The recently funded DFG Research Unit “**FOR 5315 - FOREST FLOOR: Functioning, Dynamics, and Vulnerability in a Changing World**” addresses the influence of climate change on the forest floor, a central but sensitive part of forest soils. In close cooperation between 11 projects, the research unit investigates properties and processes of forest floors along temperature and nutrient gradients.

Topic: Interrelation of biochemical and physicochemical forest floor properties: Effect of SOM-mineral association and interaction

The **Chair of Soil Science at the Technical University of Munich** invites applications for a 3+1-yr doctoral position focusing on the investigation of organo-mineral associations in forest floor layers. Possible **starting dates are from July 15th until August 15th, 2022**. Forest floor samples will be separated into density fractions which include organo-mineral associations with different SOM/mineral ratios. The samples will be analyzed by wet-chemical methods and cutting-edge techniques (synchrotron-based XANES/ μ -XANES spectroscopy, NanoSIMS).

Candidate profile: We are looking for a highly motivated, co-operative person with a strong background in soil chemistry, and – as far as possible – soil mineralogy. The ideal candidate has demonstrated his/her ability to successfully carry out research and communicate the results. Experience in publishing in scientific journals is desirable. Moreover, the ideal applicant should have some background in the application of synchrotron-based X-ray spectroscopy, or be keen to learn about and utilize these methods. A strong command of English is indispensable. For international candidates, knowledge of German would be beneficial. Salary is the German standard for doctoral students (TV-L E13 65%). The Technical University Munich is an equal opportunity employer and encourages women to apply. Disabled applicants with equal qualification and aptitude will be given preferential consideration.

Your application should include a letter of motivation, a CV, academic transcripts (non-official copies are acceptable) and contact details of two academic references. Please send your application as a single PDF by email with the subject “PhD position in RU Forest floor” by **May 31st, 2022** to Prof. Dr. Jörg Prietzel (joerg.prietzel@tum.de). Please also use this email address, if you have questions on the project.