

University of Helsinki, Finland
Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences
Department of Environmental Sciences



Postdoctoral position in marine ecology-biogeochemistry

About the employer:

The University of Helsinki, founded in 1640, is one of the world's leading universities for multidisciplinary research. The university has an international academic community of 40,000 students and staff members. It operates on four campuses in Helsinki and at 17 other locations. The high-quality research carried out by the university creates new knowledge for educating diverse specialists in various fields, and for utilisation in social decision-making and the business sector.

[The Department of Environmental Sciences](#) is based at the Viikki campus in Helsinki and at the environmental campus in Lahti, thus forming a strong and broad university unit for environmental education and research. Research at the department covers both biologically and socially oriented environmental issues. Strong skills in both disciplines and cross-disciplinarily give a good basis for solution-oriented research and teaching based on the most recent environmental knowledge.

About the project

[Aquatic Biogeochemistry Research Unit](#) (ABRU) at the Department of Environmental Sciences is seeking a highly motivated postdoc to work on the Academy of Finland funded research project entitled "*Microbiology: the missing link in benthic foraminiferal ecology*" led by Dr. Karoliina Koho. Benthic foraminifera are unicellular eukaryotes found in abundance in surface sediments of the world's oceans. Due to their high abundance and wide distribution these organisms play an important role in the benthic carbon cycle. Furthermore, the ability of some species to carry out denitrification in the absence of oxygen means that foraminifera also have a significant role in benthic nitrogen cycle. This project aims to investigate the relationship between benthic foraminifera and sediment microbial biogeochemistry in order to provide a mechanistic understanding of the distribution of benthic foraminifera in sediments and their influence on the carbon and nitrogen cycle. The role of the postdoc is twofold: (i) identify the biochemical function of endosymbionts within the foraminiferal microbiome and (ii) assess more broadly the intracellular structure of foraminifera, and its role in foraminiferal physiology.

Conditions of the employment

The postdoc will initially be employed on a fulltime, fixed term 1-year position. A possibility of extension of another year is possible, depending on funding. Typical monthly gross salary for an early postdoc is 3150€ respectively. Furthermore, the University of Helsinki offers comprehensive services to its employees, including occupational health care and health insurance, sports facilities, and opportunities for professional development. The [International Staff Services](#) office assists employees from abroad with their transition to work and life in Finland.

About the candidate

Applications from well motivated Finnish and international candidates are welcomed. The candidate should hold a PhD degree in biogeosciences, environmental microbiology, or a related field. Experience of microbial ecology and sediment biogeochemistry are essential. Knowledge and experience of one or more of the following techniques is considered an advantage: Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH), Stable-isotope probing (SIP), Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) and Nanoscale secondary ion mass spectrometry (nanoSIMS). Excellent English communication skills (both written and oral) are expected.

How to apply

Please submit your application using the University of Helsinki Recruitment System via the link [Apply for job](#). Applicants who are employees of the University of Helsinki are requested to leave their application via the SAP HR portal.

Applications for the position should include

- a letter stating your research interests and career motivation
- a CV including contact information for 2 references.

Please compile all materials to a single PDF file.

For more information on the advertised position, please contact Karoliina Koho via email (karoliina.koho@helsinki.fi) or call +358 (0)29 415 7829.

The deadline for applications is 21 August 2016, or until position is filled. The planned start date of the position is 1 October 2016.

APPLY LINK:

https://rekry.helsinki.fi/sap/bc/webdynpro/sap/hrrcf_a_posting_apply?param=cG9zdF9pbnN0X2d1aWQ9MTA2MDRCOTkyN0M4MUVFNjkxODZFM0MxRTVGQjdCNjcmY2FuZF90eXBIPUVYVA%3d%3d&sap-client=300&bspclient=300&bsplanguage=EN&sap-language=EN¶ms=cG9zdF9pbnN0X2d1aWQ9MTA2MDRCOTkyN0M4MUVFNjkxODZFM0MxRTVGQjdCNjc%3d