

Post-Doctoral offer in Forest and Human Health (EH² Lab)

Reference: 20-12-00003

The Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), Spain, will offer a Post-doctoral position in forest and human health. The call is open from Dec 1st to Dec 24st, 2020, or until a suitable candidate is found.

Project Title: Forest and Human Health: analysing the interactions between forest microbiome, forest chemistry and human health.

Interest in understanding if and how the exposure to forests leads to human health benefits is growing among the studies analysing the effects of nature on human health. This topic is not only being addressed by the scientific community but also by the civil society and other sectors resulting in the incorporation of “health provision” objectives in the international and national forest agendas, strategies, management plans and policies. Although the current body of literature has underlined the potential benefits of these ecosystems on different human body systems and functions, studies on the mechanisms and pathways leading to the health outcomes are still scarce and inconclusive. Furthermore, Mediterranean forests appear to be barely studied in comparison with others (mainly Asian forests), where abiotic variables and forest ecosystems may differ.

The main goal of this research line is to assess to what extend Mediterranean forests can be linked to human health. More particularly, this research area aims at analysing the potential links between forest chemistry, forest microbiome and human health. In addition, it also embraces the study of the potential effects of forest exposure on adults and children, at a physiological, psychological and social level.

TERMS OF THE APPOINTMENT

1. This contract is scheduled to start in 1st January 2021.
2. Location: CTFC facilities in Solsona (Spain).
3. Gross salary will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience.

What we are seeking

We are seeking a self-motivating, independent, and enthusiastic individual to conduct applied research on the links between forests and human health.

The selected candidate should have a strong scientific CV and experience in the nature-health filed of research, as well as the capacity to design new experiments. Knowledge of forest ecology, chemistry, human biology and microbiology. Some background in statistics would be desirable.

We offer a full-time position as a post-doctoral fellow starting with a one-year contract which can be extended, for a second year depending upon performance, and beyond depending upon performance and funding.

REQUIREMENTS

The preferred candidates should:

1. Have a doctorate degree in environmental sciences.
2. Have proven research experience in nature (or forest) and human health, forest chemistry.
3. Have experience in project management related with the topic.
4. Have experience in Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry.
5. Have basic knowledge of the human health system.
6. Have proven experience in designing experiments with humans.
7. Have experience in scientific publication.
8. Have experience in presenting in international conferences.
9. Be fluent in English, Spanish and Catalan.

ADDITIONAL (ASSESSABLE) QUALIFICATIONS

- Fluency in exposing ideas and discussing in public.
- Teamwork capability.
- Experience in project management.
- Experience in field work.
- Intermediate knowledge of French.
- Network of stakeholders relate to the field of research.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The selection process is led by the Research Project team and will be overseen by the Management Office and the Human Resources Area of CTFC. This process consists of:

1. Admission of candidates: applicants must submit a curriculum vitae to the supervisor Dr. Roser Maneja roser.maneja@ctfc.es and to dep.personal@ctfc.es, until 24 December 2020, indicating the reference code of the offer. Applications referred to another portal, other than CTFC or SOC job openings section and the instructions included in this, will not be accepted. Further documents may be requested from pre-selected candidates.
2. Pre-selection: determination of compliance with the minimum requirements of the offer.
3. Selection: assessment of the preselected candidates by scoring based on objective criteria.
4. Final decision: in case of finding the suitable person, the election will be formally communicated to him/her, and the identification of the chosen person will be published on CTFC job openings section.