

PhD position in Bee Conservation and Systematics

We are seeking a highly motivated PhD student to work in bee conservation and systematics, starting 1.09.2024.

As a member of the Conservation Biology Lab, you will develop two main axes of research. First you will investigate the effectiveness of conservation measures for selected, national priority species of bees in Switzerland using a robust evidence-based framework. Secondly, you will utilize cutting-edge molecular methods to unravel cryptic diversity and tackle unresolved systematic questions within the Central European bee fauna; this systematic research is expected to improve the monitoring and conservation of wild bees and will incorporate an evolutionary biology component such as host-plant or host-parasites (or host-cuckoo bees) interactions.

We offer an engaging research environment committed to bridging the gap between academic research and practical conservation action. You will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of teaching activities in invertebrate conservation and systematics at the University of Neuchâtel.

The 4-year project is fully funded by the University of Neuchâtel and the Federal Office for the Environment. Salary (60% PhD student) and social benefits follow the rules of the University of Neuchâtel.

Selection criteria:

- A Master's degree or equivalent in Biology or Biodiversity
- A passion for insect ecology or systematics
- Field experience
- Proficiency in molecular methods and/or statistics
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in English

Starting date: The anticipated starting date is 1st of September 2024, with some flexibility.

Submit your application as a single PDF, including a motivation letter, a complete CV with a copy of your diploma, and the names of two references. Send your application file before May 15 2024 with the subject "PhD application_ [your name]" to christophe.praz@unine.ch. Interviews are scheduled for May 30th.

For any question contact Christophe Praz (christophe.praz@unine.ch) or Clara Zemp (clara.zemp@unine.ch).