

The Plant Ecology Group at the University of Tübingen is searching for

Two PhD-Positions in Plant Ecology
(m/f/d, E13 TV-L, 50%, plus fellowship)

within the SAGE Centre (<https://sage-centre.org/>), one of four global climate Centres funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). SAGE is coordinated by the University of Tübingen (Germany) and An-Najah National University (Nablus, Palestine). The aim of the SAGE Centre is to empower societies in the Middle East to find science-based solutions to adaptive and sustainable management of natural resources in an era of global change.

Within SAGE, we have established a regional experimental platform in the Middle East for investigating potential tipping points in rangelands which would lead to irreversible loss of productivity and biodiversity. The experiments have started in 2021 and will run for at least four more years. The goal of the 2 PhD positions would be to evaluate early-warning indicators and thresholds of climate change (drought)-induced tipping points and how these are modified by management (grazing) and biodiversity.

We are looking for two highly motivated students with above-average MScs in (geo-)ecology or a related field. The PhD candidates will monitor plant and/or animal abundance and diversity as well as basic ecosystem functional variables, and coordinate data collection with fellow PhD students in Jordan and Palestine. The candidates should be experienced in field work and experimental design, have a very good knowledge on plants and/or animals, excellent writing skills and a very good knowledge of advanced biostatistics. They should be able to spend extended periods in the field and have a keen interest and ability to work in an international and highly inter- and transdisciplinary environment. Excellent knowledge of English is required.

The candidates will be part of the SAGE Research School, an international Graduate School with approx. 20 fellows benefitting from the supervision by an interdisciplinary Thesis Advisory Committee (TAC) and receiving tailored training (<https://sage-centre.org/srs/>).

The candidates will be employed by the University of Tübingen E13 TV-L, 50%), and will receive an additional DAAD-Fellowship during times spent abroad. The ideal starting date is April 1st, 2026, and the positions will be for three years with an option for extension.

The University is committed to equity and actively promotes equal opportunities. Disabled candidates will be given preference over other equally qualified applicants. The employment will be carried out by the central administration of the University of Tübingen.

A successful application requires the submission of a motivation letter, a complete CV, a transcript of records and two letters of reference. Applications should be submitted to eve-office@biologie.uni-tuebingen.de as a single PDF document until 15. February 2026. Please make sure that the letters of reference are sent directly by the reference contact to the address above.