

The DFG-funded Research Training Group "Ecological Regime Shifts and Systemic Risk in Coupled Social-Ecological Systems" (ECORISK), which has been running since 2024, brings together perspectives from behavioural economics, ecological modelling, environmental systems science, geography, geoinformatics, political science and sociology. Within the framework of three thematic clusters (Ecosystem Dynamics, Human activities and Governance), ECORISK deals with the causes of ecological regime shifts and the systemic risks they pose as well as their consequences in socio-ecological systems. Intensive agriculture serves as a guiding example. The Research Training Group is located at Osnabrück University, whose diverse research attracts students and scholars from around the world to a liveable city.

In the subproject A6 ›Soils under threat: evaluating regime shifts induced by soil degradation and erosion in different agricultural systems‹ a position is to be filled nearest possible at the Institute of Geography as

Research Assistant / PhD Candidate (m/f/d)
(Pay grade 13 TV-L, 75%)

and subject to funding approval on a fixed-term basis for 36 months.

Your duties:

- Scientific work in subproject A6 on soil erosion and degradation in agricultural systems and their significance in ecological regime shifts. This topic forms the basis for your own academic qualification.
- Participation in and contribution to the events of the Research Training Group

Requirements:

- Very good completed academic degree in Geography or a related discipline
- A strong research interest in pedological and socio-ecological topics, ecological risks in agriculture, and the application of integrated modelling approaches
- Very good written and spoken English language skills

Additional qualifications:

- A solid understanding of pedological and hydrological processes in an agricultural context
- Advanced knowledge of erosion modelling and machine learning methods, as well as a willingness to thoroughly familiarize yourself with new techniques
- Keen interest in interdisciplinary and international research
- Knowledge of German is beneficial
- Driver's license (EU class B) and willingness to travel for work

We offer:

- Participation in an exciting and highly topical research project
- A structured doctoral program at Osnabrück University

- Tailored training opportunities
- Collegial collaboration in a newly formed interdisciplinary and international working group
- Opportunities for partial remote work and flexible working hours

Osnabrück University is a family-friendly university and is committed to helping working/studying parents balance their family and working lives.

Osnabrück University is committed to equal opportunities, diversity, and the professional equality of the genders. We promote a culture of science and work that enables fair opportunities and a discrimination-free environment for learning, teaching, and working. In doing so, we strive for fair representation of all social groups among our staff and work to counteract underrepresentation.

Applications from people with severe disabilities and those treated as equivalent under applicable law will be given preferential consideration where candidates are equally qualified.

Please send applications, including a short motivation letter, CV, transcripts of previous academic degrees (BA/MA), and the name and email address of a potential reference as one PDF file with the subject line "Application A6" by **October 19, 2026**, to: ecorisk@uos.de.

For questions regarding this job advertisement, please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Dr. Steffen Seitz: steffen.seitz@uos.de.

Further information about the Research Training Group ECORISK can be found at: <https://www.uni-osnabrueck.de/ecorisk>.