

Master's thesis or Internship opportunity: Survey of alpine plants near climate stations in Switzerland

The 'Mountain Ecosystems' and 'Climate Research' teams at the Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL in Switzerland are looking for Master's students and paid summer field assistants in the project: 'Warmer temperatures, less snow, earlier plant development? Using a long-term meteorological network to unravel temperature and snow effects on mountain vegetation'. A field crew will visit up to 70 climate stations at high elevation (1500-3000 m asl) all over the Swiss Alps in partly remote alpine areas to record the vegetation at the stations. The field crew would consist of a postdoc, 1 or 2 Master's students and 1 or 2 field assistants. The position should start in June 2015. The end of the season would probably be at the end of September. The person would ideally be based in Davos but can also be based somewhere else in Switzerland.

Requirements are

- Good knowledge of vascular plant species identification and the motivation to rapidly learn approx. 350 alpine plant species
- Masters/Bachelor/basic studies in Biology, Ecology, or a similar field
- Physical fitness and robustness (access mainly on foot and may span 1000 vertical meters)
- Experience, ability and confidence to move in trackless alpine terrain
- Motivation and patience for long working days outdoors under sometimes harsh conditions (sometimes multiple days in a row)
- Team spirit
- Driving licence and language skills are an advantage

Payment will depend on academic degree and position in this project. Expenses for food and lodging during field work will be covered.

For more information, contact Christian Rixen
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Master's student opportunities:

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