

Leibniz-Institut für Gemüse- und Zierpflanzenbau Großbeeren/Erfurt e.V.

Das Leibniz-Institut für Gemüse- und Zierpflanzenbau (IGZ) betreibt exzellente Forschung im Gartenbau und den damit verbundenen Pflanzen-, Umwelt- und Sozialwissenschaften. Das IGZ mit Sitz in Großbeeren, nahe Potsdam und Berlin, ist Mitglied der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft (WGL). Unser Ziel ist es, wissenschaftlich fundierte Lösungen für die Bereiche zu entwickeln, die die Gartenbausysteme derzeit herausfordern: Klimawandel, Biodiversität und Pestizidreduktion, gesunde Ernährung und Lebensmittelqualität sowie ressourceneffiziente Agrar- und Lebensmittelsysteme. Unser wissenschaftliches Fachwissen deckt das gesamte Spektrum ab, von der molekularen Pflanzenphysiologie und -biochemie bis hin zur menschlichen Ernährung, Lebensmittelsicherheit und den gartenbaulichen Produktionssystemen. Damit wird die gesamte Bandbreite von der Grundlagen- bis zur Anwendungsforschung erfasst.

Master's Thesis on: "The effects of clover undersowing and companion plants on natural enemy recruitment and insect pest suppression"

City: Großbeeren; Starting date (earliest): At the earliest possible; Remuneration: -;
Closing date: 28/02/26

Working field**Background:**

The consumer demand for organically produced vegetables has increased steadily in recent years. At the same time, however, the climate-related challenges for the production of high-quality vegetables are also increasing: rising water demand due to periods of drought, faster and stronger growth of weeds and the spread of agricultural pests are becoming hurdles in organic vegetable production. To address these challenges, the ökoZuG-BB project focusses on multiple research lines, among which the development of an ecosystem-based plant protection system.

In the ökoZuG-BB project, we aim to test new field concepts for natural enemy recruitment and pest suppression. The MSc student can study the development of companion plants in clover and learn about various insect monitoring and collection techniques to assess insect pests and natural enemies in plots with cabbage, clover and companion plants.

Tasks:

- Plant measurements
- Monitoring and collecting insect pests and beneficials in the field
- Identifying insect pest and beneficials in the lab
- Data entry and management in Excel
- Statistical analysis of data

- Evaluating results and drawing conclusions

Requirements

We are looking for candidates with:

- A strong interest in sustainable agricultural, biological control and biodiversity
- A BSc degree in biology or a related field, currently pursuing a MSc degree in entomology, horticulture, (agro-)ecology or a related field
- Experience handling insects
- A basic understand of insect taxonomy
- Practical experience with lab and field work is desirable
- Experience with data processing (Excel) and statistical evaluation of research results
- Good English language proficiency, German language proficiency is desirable
- The ability to work in a team and the willingness to integrate into an international work environment

What we offer

The internship start date is ideally March or April 2026 and the work will be conducted at the Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops in Großbeeren, Germany, research group HORTSYS.JR – Organic Horticultural Systems. Unfortunately, we cannot provide financial compensation for the internship duration.

Application

Interested? Please send a motivation letter (max. 500 words) and your CV to Dr. Jessica de Bruijn (debruijn@igzev.de).

More information at <https://stellenticket.de/200560/TUB/>

Offer visible until 11/02/26

