



The Thünen Institute of Climate-Smart Agriculture of the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries in Braunschweig (Germany) invites applications for a

research assistant (f/m/d)
(agricultural, soil, geological or environmental sciences)

with 65% of the regular weekly working time in the integrated research project “DeniDrain”. The position is to be filled earliest and limited until 31.12.2026.

Denitrification in soil has been intensively studied for more than 100 years, but previous experimental studies and thus also the parameterization of the models refer almost exclusively to the deep vadosezone. Together with the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), the Thünen Institute is investigating denitrification in the unsaturated drainage zone below the root zone. The aim of this collaborative project is to quantitatively determine the mitigation of nitrate inputs to groundwater by the degradation of nitrate to N_2O and N_2 by denitrification in the deep vadose zone. After a suitable site selection, current denitrification rates of these sites and effects of different control variables will be investigated in the laboratory. At BGR, the data obtained will then be used to test and improve models.

Your tasks:

- assistance with sampling
- conducting laboratory experiments on denitrification and nitrate leaching
- scientific data analysis and statistical evaluation
- publication of results in scientific journals
- presentation of results at national and international conferences

Professional skills:

- good university degree ((university diploma, MSc.) in agricultural, soil, geosciences or environmental sciences or comparable disciplines with a scientific background
- knowledge in the field of nitrogen turnover in agricultural soils
- experience in field and/or laboratory work in the field of agriculture/soil science desired
- good statistical knowledge

Personal/Social skills:

- independent and self-reliant scientific way of working
- high level of motivation and enjoyment of scientific work, willingness to learn new methods, technical skills
- excellent communication skills in English, good German language skills necessary
- driving license class B desirable

Our offer:

- **Security and benefits:** collectively agreed, fixed-term employment with attractive social benefits (e.g. company pension scheme, annual one-off payment, capital-forming benefits) upon fulfilment of the collective agreement and personal requirements according to pay group 13 TVöD
- **Responsibility and a sense of purpose:** responsible work in a dedicated team, involvement in a dynamic, interdisciplinary research institute and proximity to current policy and practice-relevant topics
- **Flexibility and work-life balance:** flexible working time models, fundamental possibility of mobile working and teleworking, certified employer berufundfamilie audit with a wide range of offers for reconciling work and life phases
- **Prospects:** further training opportunities for the area of responsibility and individual development
- **Health:** company health management and preventative healthcare programmes



- **Mobility:** JobTicket, public transport connections, free parking spaces and the option of using e-charging stations

The Thünen Institute promotes professional equality between women and men and therefore expressly welcomes applications from women.

We live a diverse and cosmopolitan coexistence. The Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute is committed to inclusion. Applications from people with severe disabilities are therefore expressly encouraged. They will be given preferential consideration in the selection process. Please enclose proof of severe disability or equal status with your application.

For further inquiries please contact Dr. Caroline Buchen-Tschiskale (caroline.buchen-tschiskale@thuenen.de).

If you have an international degree, please also enclose a certificate evaluation from the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) with your application. If you do not yet have a certificate evaluation, you must apply for one if your application is successful. You can find further information at <https://zab.kmk.org/de/zeugnisbewertung>

Please send your application (electronically as one PDF document) with a letter of motivation, a curriculum vitae in tabular form with an overview of your training and career path and copies of certificates and two references (if possible) using the reference code **2024-084-AK** by **23.04.2025** to

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Informationen nach Artikel 13 DSGVO zur Erhebung personenbezogener Daten finden Sie unter www.thuenen.de/daten