

The Department of Landscape Ecology and Vegetation Science at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart (Germany) invites applications for a

**PhD position on
MULTI-SCALE EFFECTS OF PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION ON BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL
PEST CONTROL IN HETEROGENEOUS AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES**

For the joint project NOcsPS 2.0 (www.nocsps.de), the University of Hohenheim is seeking to fill a scientific position with a scope of 65% (remuneration according to TV-L E13) with a limited duration until 31.11.2028. The position is based in the department of Landscape Ecology and Vegetation Science (<https://ecology.uni-hohenheim.de/en>).

The recruited PhD candidate will collaborate with Dr. Jörn Pagel, Prof. Dr. Frank Schurr and other members of the BMFTR research consortium NOcsPS 2.0 (www.nocsps.de). The successful applicant will investigate the effects of chemical-synthetic plant protection on plant and insect biodiversity at different spatial scales and consequences for the potential for natural pest control in heterogeneous agricultural landscapes in Baden-Württemberg, southern Germany. The project combines (partially UAV-based) vegetation surveys with the collection and analyses of insect samples from crop fields, field margins and semi-natural vegetation to understand main drivers of insect biodiversity and natural pest control. The landscape-scale studies will be accompanied by a long-term crop trial on the University of Hohenheim's experimental farm.

Position requirements

- An excellent Master's degree (or equivalent) in ecology, agricultural sciences or a related field.
- A strong interest in quantitative community ecology.
- Experience of independently organising ecological experiments and/or field studies
- Good knowledge of statistical data analysis (preferably using R software).
- Experience in plant identification.
- Experience with insect taxonomy would be an asset but is not required.
- A driving licence (class B, passenger car) for field work
- Good written and oral communication skills in English. Basic German language skills are advantageous for communication with landowners and stakeholders.
- Ambition to publish in international scientific journals

Benefits

We offer a PhD opportunity in a topical research area of high societal relevance, in a dynamic international research group (see <https://ecology.uni-hohenheim.de/en>) and as part of a large multi-disciplinary research consortium (www.nocsps.de). The University of Hohenheim is located on a beautiful campus in the southern German city of Stuttgart, which offers a rich cultural life and attractive surroundings.

The preferred starting date for the position is **1st December 2025**. Funding is guaranteed until end of November 2028 (36 months). Salary and benefits are based on a German public service position (TV-L E13, 65%, for further information see <http://oeffentlicher-dienst.info/tv-l/west>). The University of Hohenheim seeks to increase the proportion of women in research and strongly encourages women to apply. Given equal qualifications, preference will be given to candidates with disabilities. The place of employment is Stuttgart/Germany.

Application

Applications and inquiries should be sent before **15th September 2025** via e-mail to Jörn Pagel: joern.pagel@uni-hohenheim.de

Please submit your application as a single PDF file. This file should contain a cover letter describing your motivation to apply, a CV including relevant certificates and contact details of 2 potential referees.