

Call for applications: Straskraba Fellowship in Biogeochemistry of Freshwater Ecosystems

The Institute of Hydrobiology (IHB, www.hbu.cas.cz) at the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, seeks applications for postdoctoral researcher positions in geochemistry of freshwater ecosystems.

The researcher will be employed at the department of Hydrochemistry and Ecosystem Modeling (HEM, www.hydrochem.cz) and is expected to participate in the ongoing multidisciplinary research synthesizing the extensive, multi-level data currently available at IHB and to develop their own, cutting-edge research agenda that would build upon or extend current research activities. IHB carries out research in various freshwater ecosystems with main emphasis on man-made reservoirs. Labs and teams at IHB cover all aspects of freshwater ecosystems ranging from water chemistry and sedimentology to aquatic microbiology, algae, zooplankton and fish.

The aim of the fellowship is to support research of processes that drive freshwater ecosystems and shape their biota and water quality, including aquatic environments and catchments affected by human activities. An important task of the position will be the development and application of models, describing hydrological and biogeochemical processes and their effects on nutrient/pollutant export from the catchment to the recipient flowing and standing waters. The modeling work is expected to be conducted together with experimental and/or field work.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. degree or a corresponding proven research education/experience in ecology, limnology, catchment processes and/or water quality
- experience with aquatic ecosystem processes
- experience in the use and application of models in ecology
- knowledge of programming will be considered an advantage
- experience in working with people from different disciplines and backgrounds
- excellent written and communication skills
- good knowledge of English (corresponding to CAE or equivalent).

Additional desired qualifications:

experience with fieldwork in aquatic habitats,
evidence of grant application success

How to apply:

Interested applicants should email the following documents to the head of HEM, Prof. Josef Hejzlar (hejzlar@hbu.cas.cz):

- 1) Cover letter outlining main research interests and ideas for the fellowship;
- 2) CV including full publication list;
- 3) Copies of relevant diplomas and 1-2 relevant publications;
- 4) Contact details for 3 references;

Preliminary enquiries are welcome.

Position details:

Initial appointment will be for 12 months, with possible extension for up to 3 years for postdoctoral-level applicants and the possibility of a tenure-track equivalent for mid-career applicants. Applicants intending to extend their contract are expected to secure at least part of their research through extramural funding with grants from Czech and international funding bodies.

Knowledge of Czech is not required but the successful applicant will be offered support to take up courses and reach basic level of proficiency.

The target start date is September-October 2014 (negotiable).

Salary will be commensurate with the applicant's experience and skills and is negotiable within monthly brutto range of ca 27,000-54,000 CZK (1,000-2,000 EUR). This is enough to ensure good living standards in the Czech Republic. IHB can offer help in securing non-commercial accommodation. Foreign applicants will receive full support in transferring to the Czech Republic.

Applications will be reviewed every three months starting on August 1, 2014, and continue until the position is filled.

Background:

The fellowship is named in honour of Prof. Milan Straškraba (1931-2000), an outstanding Czech ecologist whose research interests combined fieldwork-based research with applications of mathematical modelling to freshwaters. He was also among the founders of IHB and of the Faculty of Science at the University of Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice, with which IHB closely collaborates.

Ceske Budejovice, the site of IHB, is a medium-sized town ca 150 km south of Prague with 100,000 inhabitants and relaxed atmosphere. Both the town and the surrounding countryside provide numerous opportunities for field research and various leisure activities.