

The University of Passau owes its strong visibility and reputation to excellent research, innovative teaching and its tight-knit international academic networks. Some 11,000 students and more than 1,300 staff study and work on our university campus, which is located a stone's throw from the historical Old Town of Passau and combines state-of-the-art technical infrastructure with award-winning architecture. Internationally successful high-tech companies and a vibrant start-up scene, coupled with a rich culture and Lower Bavarian traditions, give Passau and the surrounding area a special appeal that makes it a great place to live and work.

The **research group “Bioeconomy Economics” (Dr Terese Venus)** of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems and the **Professorship of Physical Geography with a focus on Human-Environment Research** of the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences (**Professor Christine Schmitt**) of the University of Passau invite applications for the position of

Graduate Research Assistant

for the EU-financed WATERWISE project.

The position is available from **1 October 2024** (earliest starting date). Remuneration is in accordance with pay grade 13 of the German public-sector collective agreement (TV-L E13) and includes comprehensive social benefits for employees in the public sector. This is an 0.6 FTE (60%) position based on a three-year fixed-term contract.

The project

The successful candidate will work on the European Union's Interreg Alpine Space project entitled **“[WATERWISE](#): Co-designing sustainable management solutions for resilient Alpine headwaters”**, which aims to support a climate-resilient and green Alpine region. Climate change is increasingly impacting on mountain headwaters (HW), which constitute the main source of freshwater in the Alpine region. Considerable changes in water availability and quality pose significant challenges for Alpine communities and have profound implications for the ecosystem services on which they depend.

For this project, you will compile socio-economic parameters (e.g. changing water demand patterns and competing needs) from existing databases, estimate socio-economic impacts in a range of different scenarios, and organise stakeholder meetings at the German pilot site (e.g. Zugspitze) in order to test, improve and finalise the toolbox. You will also create a guideline for the implementation of stakeholder workshops at the other pilot sites and offer consultations when needed. The University of Passau team will work closely with all project partners, particularly the French professional network of nature reserve managers (Réserves Naturelles de France).

Your profile

We are looking for a highly motivated individual who is interested in conducting field research in Germany and Austria.

- Must have a university master's degree with excellent grades in applied economics, resource economics, environmental economics or a related subject
- Very good quantitative skills (e.g. econometrics, statistics in Stata or R) are required
- Experience with (or an interest in learning about) spatial analysis using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and/or R would be an advantage
- Interest in learning about qualitative approaches (e.g. focus groups, interviews, stakeholder analysis)
- Very good written and spoken English and German language skills

What we offer

- The opportunity to do a doctorate (Dr.rer.pol.) on the topic of socio-economic impacts of climate change on alpine source areas (e.g. for tourism, agriculture and selected ecosystem services) under the supervision of Dr Venus (Bioeconomy Economics) and Professor Schmitt (Physical Geography)

- Regular participation in international conferences and integration into an international research network
- If you are aiming for a doctorate, a research stay with a project partner and access to a wide range of doctoral courses offered by the University of Passau and the Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics (BGPE)

Further information

The University of Passau is committed to gender equality and wishes to increase the number of female academic employees: women are therefore expressly encouraged to apply. Moreover, this position is suitable for candidates with disabilities. Applicants who are registered disabled are given preference over non-disabled applicants who do not otherwise have statutory preferential status if their overall personal aptitudes, skills and qualifications are equal.

How to apply

The application deadline is 19 August 2024.

To apply, please send a single pdf file comprising a cover letter, your CV, copies of relevant degree certificates and transcripts, your earliest starting date and a short sample of your writing (e.g. an excerpt from your Master's thesis) to BioEcon@uni-passau.de. For specific questions regarding the position, please contact the research group leader, Dr Terese Venus (BioEcon@uni-passau.de). In your cover letter, please describe your experience, career ambitions, and interest in the Waterwise project. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a Zoom interview on 22 or 23 August.

Emailed applications are kept on file for six months after the conclusion of the appointment procedure, whereupon they are deleted from our systems. Please visit www.uni-passau.de/en/university/current-vacancies for our data privacy statement.