

3 PhD positions on Arctic Greening at ETH Zürich



Climate warming is transforming the Arctic at an unprecedented rate. Previously barren landscapes are “greening” as a result of longer snow-free periods and increases in plant growth. Although the Arctic is warming almost everywhere, patterns of Arctic greening and changes in the Arctic biosphere are highly diverse. As Arctic landscapes continue to change, we need to understand the biological and physical-chemical feedbacks associated with the Arctic’s transition into this novel state.

Project background

We are looking for three highly motivated PhD candidates to work on interdisciplinary approaches to develop a deeper understanding of the evolutionary, ecological and biogeochemical processes underlying Arctic greening. One of the main objectives of this project is to test how far observed vegetation changes in the Arctic are tied not only to climate warming, but to changes in soil properties and soil microbial communities.

We will study ecosystems of the High-Arctic Svalbard Archipelago and northern Norway to determine the underlying interactions between plants, soils and microbial communities across geoclimatic gradients. We will work in interdisciplinary teams using experiments designed to assess the response of Arctic ecosystems to warming and how soil-vegetation-microbe interactions will govern the pace and shape of Arctic greening, Arctic biodiversity changes and biogeochemical cycles. The project is led by a consortium of researchers from [ETH](#), [WSL](#) and [NINA](#). For further information, please go to <https://geobiology.ethz.ch/research/arctic-greening.html>

Job descriptions and application

For further details about each of the open positions, including requirements and application procedures, please use these links:

[PhD Arctic Greening – Microbiota-Plant-Interactions](#)

[PhD Arctic Greening – Plant-Soil-Interactions](#)

[PhD Arctic Greening – Soil-Microbiota-Interactions](#)

Applications will be reviewed from the beginning of October onwards until the position is filled.

ETH Zurich is one of the world’s leading universities specialising in science and technology. We are renowned for our excellent education, cutting-edge fundamental research and direct transfer of new knowledge into society. Over 30,000 people from more than 120 countries find our university to be a place that promotes independent thinking and an environment that inspires excellence. Located in the heart of Europe, yet forging connections all over the world, we work together to develop solutions for the global challenges of today and tomorrow.

In line with our values, ETH Zurich encourages an inclusive culture. We promote equality of opportunity, value diversity and nurture a working and learning environment in which the rights and dignity of all our staff and students are respected. Visit our [Equal Opportunities and Diversity website](#) to find out how we ensure a fair and open environment that allows everyone to grow and flourish.