



PhD Program between the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC)

Open PhD position at FUB for CSC scholarship candidates 2018

Please note: the PhD position is only offered to Chinese PhD candidates for application in the framework of the FUB-CSC PhD Program.

<u>Department/Institute:</u>	Department of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy / Institute of Biology
<u>Subject area:</u>	Ecology
<u>Name of Supervisor:</u>	Prof. Dr. Matthias C. Rillig
<u>Number of open PhD positions:</u>	2
<u>Type of the PhD Study:</u>	Full-time
<u>Project title:</u>	Ecology of soil and soil fungi

PhD Project description:

We offer two positions for doctoral students in the field of ecology of soil fungi. Projects could be themed around any of the current topics:

- 1) Gradual vs. abrupt environmental drivers. We are interested in studying effects of gradually vs. abruptly occurring change (in a global change context) on soils and soil saprobic fungal communities. For a general project description see here: <https://rilliglab.wordpress.com/research-2/research/gradual-change-erc-advanced-grant/>
- 2) Effects of micro- and nanoplastics on soil and soil biota. We study the toxic and ecological effects of microplastics in the terrestrial environment.
- 3) Microbial community coalescence. We are interested in studying the effects and theory of the meeting of entire microbial communities. See Rillig et al. (2015) <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2015.06.004>

Language requirements:

IELTS: 6.5 or TOEFL: 95 ibt.

Academic requirements:

Candidates need to have a Master's degree in ecology, mycology, soil science or related fields. Students with a focus on modelling are also welcome if they can work independently. A good knowledge of ecology and statistics (using R) is generally desirable.

Information of the professor or research group leader:

Matthias Rillig has been professor at Freie Universität since 2007 and leads a group of about 50 people. He is director of the Berlin-Brandenburg Institute of Advanced Biodiversity Research (BBIB). In 2016 he was awarded an ERC Advanced Grant (see topic 1 above).

Information on the Rillig lab is available here: <http://rilliglab.wordpress.com/>

The group is very international (>15 countries) and offers a highly interactive environment in which to do research on soil ecology.

Please note: In a first step, the complete application must be submitted to the Beijing Office for evaluation by January 4th, 2018. Please do not contact the professor before. He/She will get in contact with you after having received the complete application via the Beijing Office in January.