

The Faculty of Business Economics of Hasselt University seeks a (m/f)

PhD student PhD student Valuation of Ecosystem Services

The UHasselt contributes to the knowledge economy in the Euregion. Active tutoring, made to measure for the students, top quality research in specific domains and an international orientation are our university's characteristics. Owing to its small size, the university and its employees are building up to an organisation together where it is a pleasure to work. Qualities are the only means by which people are measured. Gender, ethnicity, handicap, nationality and age are not taken into consideration.

Background

The Centre for Environmental Sciences is an international academic leader in holistic, multi-, and transdisciplinary analyses pertaining to the environment and a source of robust science-driven advice to public and private decision-makers from the local to the international level. Within CMK, researchers from biology, ecology, economics, epidemiology, chemistry and law work together to address environmental challenges of high societal urgency that require analyses that span across the boundaries of different scientific domains and disciplines, and necessitate fundamental, as well as applied research. CMK research aims to improve our understanding on society's impact on nature, and on nature's impact on society, in particular with regard to (1) understanding influences of the environment on organisms, (2) developing and assessing sustainable clean technologies to mitigate influences of the environment on organisms, and to (3) monitoring, valuing and optimizing biodiversity and ecosystem services under different stress conditions, including climate change. CMK researchers publish in top-ranked academic journals and are represented in national and international scientific and policy advisory boards.

Job content

You will be carrying out an interdisciplinary research project about the assessment and valuation of ecosystem services. You will be tasked to assess how the use of biochar, a soil amendment made from pyrolysis of biomass, impacts on ecosystem services (e.g. biodiversity, crop productivity, carbon sequestration, water purification), in particular for marginal soils, and to value these changes in services in monetary terms. The ultimate goal of your PhD is to provide quantitative guidance to policy-makers and businesses on the full societal advantages and disadvantages of using biochar as a soil amendment.

Within this project you will work closely together with colleagues from different disciplines, from different national and international universities, and with an extensive advisory board that spans the full biochar stakeholder chain.



Hasselt University has a long tradition of paying attention to research careers. In recognition of this, the European Commission granted Hasselt University in 2011 as the first Flemish university with the right to use the 'HR Excellence in Research' logo.

Profile

- You have obtained the degree of master in business engineering, civil engineering, bioengineering (or equivalent)
Final-year students are (likewise) encouraged to apply.
- You are interested in environmental issues, passionate about research and persistent.
- You have experience with data collection, quantitative research methods and the matching software.
- You have the necessary background to analyze environmental issues from both a scientific and an economics perspective.
- You have excellent grades.
- You have excellent communication skills.
- Your proficiency in English is excellent.
- Experience and/or knowledge of the monetary valuation of non-market goods (such as ecosystem services) is a plus.
- Experience in system dynamics modeling is a plus.
- Experience with concepts such as the biobased economy is a plus.
- You have experience in working in multi-disciplinary teams.

Offer

You will be appointed and paid as [PhD student](#).

You will be initially appointed for a period of 2 years, which is extended for 2 additional years on the condition of a positive evaluation.

Selection procedure

You can only [apply online](#) up to and including **31 May 2019**.

The selection procedure consists of a preselection based on application file, an interview and a test lesson / presentation.

Preselection is based on CV, motivation letter and a single writing sample of your own work.

Further information

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More about working at Hasselt University? Check www.uhasselt.be/vacancies for our [staff benefits](#).



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