



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

PhD position in Ecology and Biogeosciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot, Israel

Starting 1 January 2024.

Position: The doctoral position is part of a collaborative project supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) entitled “Decoupling above- from belowground litter decomposition and impacts on stabilization of soil organic matter with increasing aridity”. The project is a joint Germany-Israel initiative of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, the Technical University of Dresden, Germany, and the Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena, Germany.

The study aims to investigate how increasing aridity affects the decomposition of both above- and belowground litter, shedding light on the subsequent implications for soil organic matter formation. Leveraging a distinctive precipitation gradient across Israel, this research holds the promise of offering valuable insights into the effects of escalating drought conditions on the stabilization of soil organic carbon. Ultimately, the results of this research will enhance our understanding of mitigation of climate change by natural ecosystems.

Requirements: For our project, we are looking for a highly motivated PhD student with a university-level Master’s degree (or equivalent) in Earth or natural sciences (e.g., ecology, soil sciences, geosciences, biogeochemistry, environmental sciences, biology, agronomy), with experience in both field and lab work. A solid background in the dynamics of plant litter and soil organic matter in natural or managed systems is expected, and knowledge in the use of stable carbon isotopes in ecological research is desired. Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English, and excellent communication skills are imperative. A valid driving license is required.

We offer: As a PhD candidate with us, you will become a full member of our dynamic international and interdisciplinary research community. You will acquire experience in conducting field and lab studies on litter decomposition and soil organic matter formation using state-of-the-art analytical tools. The PhD candidate will work in intensive collaboration with our partners in Germany, including internships at these institutions. The successful candidate will receive a scholarship fully covering living expenses in Israel. Here you can get more information about the [Dryland Tree and Ecosystem Ecology Lab](#) headed by Prof. José M. Grünzweig.

Submission: Please submit your detailed application, including CV, motivation letter, a summary of your Master’s thesis (if already completed) and the names (+ affiliation and email) of two references to the following email address (open until filled): laura.bigio@mail.huji.ac.il