

## Full time scientist position in the field of « Monitoring and modelling forest dynamics » at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Liège University

### Call for candidates

A full-time position (first assistant, i.e. research scientist) in the field of « Monitoring and modelling forest dynamics » within Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech – University of Liège (GxABT-ULiège) is open. The successful candidate will be hired for a 2-year period after which a definitive appointment could be proposed (tenure-track).

The first assistant will contribute to research and community service activities and will be assigned to the CARE (Research and Teaching Support Unit - Cellule d'Appui à la Recherche et l'Enseignement in French) *Forest is Life*.

### 1. Research activities

As part of global change, forests and trees are subject to many pressures and threats. These pressures threaten the services provided by forest ecosystems and have strong impacts on their management, both in temperate and tropical areas. In order to monitor the dynamics of forest stands over the long term, the settlement and monitoring of permanent observation and measurement systems is a necessity. Such systems provide really important information in terms of recruitment, growth, mortality and phenology of tree populations. They also make it possible to test new silvicultural approaches, measure the impacts of forest exploitation and assess economic aspects.

The candidate will develop his/her research activities in the field of modelling the dynamics of forest stands and tree populations, both in temperate and tropical areas. He/she will be responsible for standardizing protocols, monitoring data collection in the systems already installed in Belgium and central Africa, and installing new monitoring systems. Skills and/or interests in database programming and management are therefore expected. He/she will organize the dialogue with researchers active in forest dynamics modelling, in particular developers and animators of simulation platforms (e.g. CAPSIS, in France, or SILVA, in Germany).

### 2. Teaching activities

The first assistant may eventually be assigned missions as part of the teaching activities of the Faculty. The mission might include about 150 h per year of face-to-face teaching activities (ex-cathedra courses, seminars, field visits, tutorials and practical work, excursions).

Depending on the candidate's profile, he/she will provide support in the following fields : dendrometry and inventories, silvicultural expertise, silvicultural routes, forest economics, within the Master's program in Bioengineering in Forest and Natural Areas Management.

Also, the first assistant will have the opportunity to co-supervise students during their masters or PhD thesis, or during master's student group projects.

### 3. Services to the Community

The candidate will be in charge of monitoring a network of permanent plots and trails for the study of forest dynamics, both in Belgium and central Africa. He/she will develop and manage large databases on forest dynamics and phenology. Depending on the candidate's skills and interests, Citizen Science approaches may be developed, particularly for phenology.

The assistant will be involved in community and social services, in consultation with his or her direct authorities.

### 4. Eligibility criteria

Candidates must :

- Hold a university MSc degree in bioengineering or equivalent and hold a PhD in agricultural sciences or forest sciences ;
- Show significant experience in the field of the call ;
- Demonstrate scientific experience recognized by international publications in the field of the call ;
- Have an excellent knowledge of database management and statistical data processing and dynamic modelling ;
- Be able to work in the field, in the forest, in both temperate and tropical regions ;
- Be able to work in a team, in contact with public and private forest stakeholders ;
- Be ready to contribute to various community service and extension activities.

The candidate will have a good knowledge of English.

The candidate will be available for missions abroad. If he/she has no significant scientific experience outside Liège University, he/she will be ready to acquire some, preferably abroad, for a continuous period of at least six months.

If the candidate is not fluent in French, he/she will commit him/herself to develop sufficient fluency within two years.

Finally, the candidate will adhere to the general objectives of the quality management and continuous improvement system developed within the Institution.

Upon appointment, the candidate will have to sign an agreement relating to the ownership of the research results.

### 5. Salary

Salary is commensurate with those of public universities in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation of Belgium.

## 6. More information

For further information, you can contact Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech :

Dr. Adeline FAYOLLE, Director of the CARE Forest is Life ([adeline.fayolle@uliege.be](mailto:adeline.fayolle@uliege.be))

## 7. How to apply ?

Applicants are requested to submit their applications to :

Professor Frédéric FRANCIS, Dean  
Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech – University of Liège  
Passage des Déportés n° 2  
B-5030 Gembloux

before December 14th, 2018, with reference « GxABT/Suivi\_modélisation\_dynamique\_forestière ».

Complete file will include :

- A complete resume ;
- An application letter developing the personal aspirations of the candidate in relation to the call ;
- A summary of their research project related to the field of the call (maximum of 4 pages).

A copy of the complete application file will also have to be sent by email at :  
[doyen.gembloux@uliege.be](mailto:doyen.gembloux@uliege.be)