

In accordance with Article 35 of the Rules on stable funding of the Slovenian Forestry Institute (hereinafter: the Rules) and the General act on stable funding of scientific research activity (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 87/22 and 103/22 - compr.) and Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 186/21 and 40/23, hereinafter: ZZrID), the Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI), Večna pot 2, Ljubljana, Slovenia, hereby announces the

Public Call for Applications for the Young Researcher Positions 2024

Published on	15.03.2024
Deadline for application submission	15.04.2024
Place of publication	https://www.gozdis.si/informacije-javnega-znacaja/zaposlitev/ , Employment Service of Slovenia

1. The subject of this public call

The subject of this public call is the selection of young researchers that will start their doctoral training programs with their selected supervisor in 2024 in the following research fields.

The Slovenian Forestry Institute reserves the right to select up to three candidates for Young Researchers in 2024.

2. Supervisor and the research area

1. The research area: The impact of selected environmental and stand characteristics on the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate change (1 position)

Research programme: P4-0107 - Forest biology, ecology and technology, head prof. dr. Hojka Kraigher

Supervisor: dr. Jernej Jevšenak

(<https://www.gozdis.si/en/Department-for-Forest-and-Landscape-Planning-and-Monitoring-contacts/Jernej-Jevsenak/>)

We are seeking an enthusiastic and innovative young researcher who will direct their research efforts towards the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate changes, which represent one of today's key challenges for forests. The candidate will explore in detail the influence of selected environmental and stand factors, such as interspecific competition, diversity of tree species, and soil characteristics, on the capacity of forest stands to successfully grow under stress conditions. The work will be dynamic, involving field sampling of growth increments and their subsequent laboratory processing. By analysing data from the national forest inventory, we will gain insights into long-term trends of key ecological processes, such as growth and tree mortality, deepening our understanding of the resilience of forest ecosystems to stress factors. Data analysis will be conducted in the R programming environment, with the candidate having the opportunity for additional training. The position is offered within the Department for Forest and Landscape Planning and Monitoring, where the selected candidate will receive all necessary professional and technical support for their career development. We expect the candidate to have a passion for research, creativity, excellent knowledge of the English language, the ability to work independently, and active participation in domestic and international conferences.

For further professional and technical inquiries, candidates can directly contact the supervisor, Dr. Jernej Jevšenak, at jernej.jevsenak@gozdis.si.

2. The research area: Impact of climate change on silver fir growth along a transect in the Dinaric Mountains (1 position)

Research programme: P4-0107 - Forest biology, ecology and technology, head prof. dr. Hojka Kraigher

Supervisor: prof. dr. Tomislav Levanič

(https://www.gozdis.si/en/Department-of-Forest-Yield-and-Silviculture-contacts/Tomislav-Levanic_1/)

The candidate will evaluate the impact of climate change (and extreme events) on the response of silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) on a transect in the Dinaric Mountains (from Slovenia to Montenegro, approx. 5 locations). The evaluation of the response will take place with the help of stable carbon isotopes in annual increments, with the help of tree-ring widths and with comparisons with meteorological data.

The research work will be diverse, it will include multi-day field sampling in Slovenia and abroad, laboratory work in laboratories for stable isotopes and dendrochronology, and data evaluation. Research results will be published in reputable international journals, and participation in international conferences and various summer schools/workshops is also expected.

The candidate is expected to be curious, self-initiative and willing to acquire new knowledge. Knowledge of English is desirable. The data will be processed in specialized programs for

working with laboratory equipment, the R programming environment and in general programs for editing texts, preparing charts and data. The candidate will be provided with appropriate education and training in this regard.

3. The research area: Forest hydrology (1 position)

Research programme: P4-0107 - Forest biology, ecology and technology, head prof. dr. Hojka Kraigher

Supervisor: dr. Urša Vilhar

(<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ursa-Vilhar>, https://www.gozdis.si/en/Department-of-Forest-Ecology-contact/Ursa-Vilhar_1/)

The young researcher will focus on the effects of environmental changes (climate change, large-scale forest disturbances) on the water balance and the assessment of drainage fluxes in selected forest stands in the area of the Planinska and Postojna cave system. Preliminary results already collected within the ForKarst project (<https://izrkp.zrc-sazu.si/sl/programi-in-projekti/procesi-infiltracije-v-gozdnatih-kraskih-vodonosnikih-ob-spremenljivih>) will provide a solid basis for the research. Integration with various satellite products and modelling according to expected climate scenarios will provide an insight into the future hydrological conditions of selected forest stands at different stages of forest development in the area of the Planina and Postojna Cave system, taking into account the microgeomorphology of the karst.

The PhD candidate will acquire knowledge of forest hydrology, modelling of forest water balance and especially drainage fluxes. The candidate will be involved in top-class programmes at the University of Ljubljana and other international universities. The research work will take the form of field data collection and statistical analysis of the results.

The work will equip the PhD candidate with skills relevant for further research work and will provide an excellent basis for addressing increasingly topical issues of forest ecology in the light of environmental change.

The PhD candidate will have the opportunity to visit other research and training institutions, learn about the latest methods and build their own network of international connections.

Research environment

The Slovenian Forestry Institute is a public research institute that conducts basic and applied research on forests and forest landscapes, and forest ecosystems.

The candidate will work within the Forest Ecology Department. One of the main focuses of the department is the work on forest hydrology. The department has an extensive network of co-operations with many national and international research and educational institutions worldwide. It works with governmental and international organisations such as ICP Forests, LifeWatch and eLTER. The candidate will work with motivated colleagues in a dynamic and

multidisciplinary environment with excellent infrastructure and many opportunities for personal and professional development.

Desired qualities of the candidate:

- we welcome applications from highly motivated candidates with a Master's degree in forestry or related fields;
- the candidate should be able to work both independently and in a team with members of the Department of Ecology, other colleagues and other research groups;
- strong planning and organisational skills and the ability to prioritise, set and meet deadlines;
- communication skills in terms of scientific writing, discussion and knowledge transfer and a high level of English;
- excellent interpersonal skills in dealing with colleagues and superiors;
- curiosity, initiative and a willingness to learn new skills.

3. Conditions for applying

Young researcher applicants must meet the following conditions for applying:

- they have not yet completed a doctoral program or been awarded a doctoral degree;
- they have never been employed in the financing scheme of Young researchers;
- they have a second-cycle (master's) degree or a comparable degree from a university abroad (applicants that have not yet completed their second-cycle degree program at the time of applying for the open call must complete their program by September 15th of the current year);
- their grade point average in the second-cycle program is at least 8.00 (including their master's thesis grade);
- no more than four years have passed since the end of their second-cycle degree program or the acquisition of a degree that corresponds to the degree obtained in a second-cycle degree program and, under the law governing the Slovenian qualifications framework, is classified as level 8, or since the end of a comparable academic program completed abroad (the year of graduation). If the applicant took parental leave, this period can be extended by the period of the applicant's justified absence, whereas for other types of justified absence specified in the health insurance regulations it can be extended at most by the period of the justified absence only if the absence was continuous and lasted longer than six months;
- before concluding the employment contract, they have enrolled (via the eVŠ portal) in the first or second year of a third-cycle (doctoral) program.

Foreign nationals or applicants that have completed their studies abroad must have all the documentation required for employment in the Republic of Slovenia in order prior to signing the employment contract. If applicants have not completed a second-cycle academic program or an academic program that meets the requirements for enrolment in a doctoral program in Slovenia, they must obtain a decision from a higher-education institution recognizing a degree completed abroad for the purposes of pursuing further education in Slovenia.

4. Criteria for the evaluation and selection of candidates

The applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- grade point average in a second-cycle program or an academic program that meets the requirements for enrolment in a doctoral program;
- awards or other recognitions received;
- published scientific or professional works;
- participation in research work;
- applicant interview assessment.

The evaluation of the criteria is determined by the Slovenian Forestry Institute evaluation panel, which is also autonomous in the selection of the young researcher.

5. Term of employment

Slovenian Forestry Institute will grant a fixed-term employment contract with selected applicants. The contract duration covers the period of training, which is the same as the period of financing (junior researchers are financed until they obtain a doctorate degree, but for no more than four years; if applicants are enrolled in the second year of their doctoral program when starting the Young researchers scheme, their training is financed until they receive a doctorate, but for no more than three years. The employment contract is terminated with the day of completing of obtaining of doctorate degree regardless to the envisaged expiry date of the contract.

6. The application must include the following:

1. Curriculum Vitae;
2. a signed Application form with adequately marked statements;
3. proof of education if the applicants have already completed their program (a copy of a second-cycle degree diploma);
4. proof of grade point average in a second-cycle program (i.e., a diploma supplement or an officially confirmed transcript of courses taken from which the grade point average rounded to two decimal places is evident);
5. proof of enrolment in a third-cycle graduate program and proof of requirements completed if the applicant is already enrolled.

For the purposes of evaluation in accordance with the criteria set, the following can also be enclosed with the application:

1. proof of any awards and recognitions received;
2. a list of scientific or professional papers;



GOZDARSKI INŠTITUT SLOVENIJE
SLOVENIAN FORESTRY INSTITUTE

Večna pot 2, SI-1000 Ljubljana

3. proof of prior participation in research activities;
4. proof of the applicant's justified absence in order to meet the requirement regarding the permissible number of years after the end of the academic program specified under indent 5 of point 3 hereof.

7. Applying for the open call

The application must reach the Slovenian Forestry Institute (Večna pot 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia) by 2 pm on April 15th, 2024, regardless of the method of submission. Submitted applications should be marked with "Application for the Call for Young Researchers 2024".

Ways of submitting applications:

- in person at the Slovenian Forestry Institute front desk (Večna pot 2, Ljubljana), or
- by mail addressed to Slovenian Forestry Institute, Večna pot 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia or by e-mail to: tajnistvo@gozdis.si. Applications must arrive to the destination address no later than by the deadline above.

Only complete applications that arrive at the SFI address by the deadline and in the manner specified above will be considered.

8. Other information

SFI will complete its selection by August 31st, 2024. Candidates will receive an invitation to an informational interview at the email address provided in the application form.

The applicants selected will receive a request at the e-mail address provided in their application form to confirm they accept the junior researcher position within three working days.

SFI will notify the other applicants that they have not been selected for the position within eight days after the selection procedure ends.

Important:

The applicants selected for the junior researcher positions are required to apply separately to the call for applications for enrolment in graduate programs in the 2024/2025 academic year and to submit proof of enrolment in a third-cycle program to SFI prior to concluding the employment contract.

Applicants that fail to enrol in a graduate program by the enrolment deadlines via the eVŠ system will not be able to conclude a junior researcher training contract with SFI.