

Professorship in Biology/Ecology

(Open rank: W2 or W1 with tenure track to W2)
reference 100-E/2026

Faculty of Chemistry, Physics and Biosciences

Starting date: as soon as possible

We are looking for a nationally and internationally renowned candidate with an outstanding scientific track record who will represent the entire field of biology and ecology in research and teaching, preferably from the winter semester 2026/27.

The research will focus on the causal analysis of plant-environment interactions, in particular rhizosphere processes and their significance for resource acquisition, stress tolerance, and ecosystem functions. A cross-scale and cross-methodological approach is expected, ranging from physiological mechanisms and organismic adaptations to population and ecosystem processes, incorporating field experiments, biodiversity studies, laboratory approaches, and modelling.

The research of the professorship is expected to strengthen the environmental and resource profile of TU Bergakademie Freiberg and requires close interdisciplinary collaboration within the Faculty of Chemistry, Physics and Biosciences as well as with related disciplines at the Faculty of Geosciences, Geoengineering and Mining. Applicants should present concrete ideas for professional networking and for establishing joint research projects. Cooperation with relevant research institutions in Saxony, Germany, and internationally is expected.

Research areas include the ecophysiology of plants under multiple stressors, functional plant traits and their role in ecosystem processes, plant strategies in relation to nutrient and resource cycles, and the significance of biodiversity for ecosystem functions and bioindication in anthropogenic landscapes. Expertise in plant adaptation to extreme or changing site conditions, root ecology and rhizosphere processes, as well as regenerative approaches in resource extraction and environmental and nature conservation, is particularly desirable.

In teaching, biology and ecology as a fundamental component of bachelor's, master's, and diploma degree programs in Applied Natural Science, Chemistry, and Environmental System Sciences/ Geoecology must be covered.

TU Bergakademie Freiberg pursues a teaching and research concept that requires a high level of presence in teaching, within the research group, and in university self-administration.

The teaching spectrum includes organismic biology, functional ecology, plant ecophysiology, ecology of populations and communities, ecosystem analysis, biodiversity research, ecological modelling, as well as applied landscape ecology and nature conservation content. The applicant should also be willing to offer lectures for degree programs in other faculties, in particular in the geosciences. The ability to teach in German and English is required.

Applications

Applications, stating the advertisement reference number (**100-E/2026**) and including a clear statement on the intended rank and the corresponding suitability (W2 or W1 with tenure track to W2), should be sent by e-mail by June 30, 2026 to:

(Dezernat.3@zuv.tu-freiberg.de)

the Department of Human Resources of Technische Universität Freiberg, Akademiestr. 6, 09596 Freiberg

Please include the following documents with your cover letter:

- curriculum vitae and description of academic career
- list of publications with copies of the most important publications (max. 5), as well as an overview of research projects
- list of courses taught and the results of two selected teaching evaluations
- research and teaching concept
- copies of certificates for all academic degrees

If you have any questions, please contact the Dean

Prof. Dr. Gero Frisch

(ffrisch@tu-freiberg.de).

Severely disabled or equivalent applicants will be given preferential consideration in the event of equal suitability. For appropriate consideration, proof of severe disability/equality must be attached to the application documents.

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The appointment will be made depending on the candidate's qualifications, primarily at salary level W2 for life or, for early-career researchers in a very early career phase after the doctorate, at salary level W1 (junior professorship) with tenure track to W2.

Appointment to the W1 junior professorship requires fulfilment of the requirements of the Sächsisches Hochschulgesetz (SächsHSG, Higher Education Act of Saxony), in particular an outstanding doctorate in the appointment field and pedagogical qualification. The initial appointment will be for three years as a fixed-term civil servant and will be extended for a further three years following a positive interim evaluation. At the latest after completion of the six-year junior professorship, and subject to a successful tenure evaluation, appointment as a lifetime civil servant at salary level W2 without renewed advertisement is intended. Sections 60(2) and 71(3) SächsHSG apply to the tenure-track procedure.

The university supports tenure-track professors through advice, networking, training, and mentoring. The Graduate and Research Academy of TU Bergakademie Freiberg, together with the Higher Education Didactics Centre Saxony, offers tailored continuing education courses in higher education didactics.

For appointment to the W2 professorship for life, the successful candidate must fulfill the general requirements for appointment according to § 59 of the Sächsisches Hochschulgesetz (Higher Education Act of Saxony), dated May 31, 2023, in its currently valid and applicable version. A university degree, pedagogical qualification and knowledge of higher education teaching methods, a doctorate in the appointment field, as well as a habilitation, a positively evaluated junior professorship, or achievements equivalent to a habilitation are required.

TUBAF is a family-friendly university and provides support in the provision of childcare facilities as well as in the placement of appropriate jobs in the region for life partners or spouses (dual career couples). It strives to increase the proportion of women in teaching and research. Qualified female scientists are therefore invited to apply.

Please note that your application documents will not be returned. Please submit copies of your certificates only. Travel and other costs for interviews will not be reimbursed