The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) with its 1,100 employees has gained an excellent reputation as an international competence center for environmental sciences. We are part of the largest scientific organization in Germany, the Helmholtz association. Our mission: Our research seeks to find a balance between social development and the long-term protection of our natural resources.

In the past decade, much attention has been given to biodiversity loss and its impacts on ecosystems and their services – such as pollination. The general insect decline mostly results from the loss of habitat, intensive agriculture, and climate change. To restore and promote insects and pollinators in mass flowering crops (i.e. oilseed rape), more efforts should focus on developing sustainable management practices at the field and landscape scales. For example, increasing plant diversity can provide pollinators with additional sources of pollen and nectar, and therefore can have great potential for enhancing pollination services.

The successful candidate will focus on plant diversity and flower visitors (pollinators) in the surrounding of oilseed rape crops that differs in terms of landscape composition, configuration and intensity. To test the relationships between plant diversity and the different components of the landscape, gradients of landscape heterogeneity will be calculated. Interactions (field or landscape scale) between plant diversity and pollinator visitations, via network approaches, will also be investigated.

The Department of Community Ecology - BZF is offering:

Master thesis

**"The benefits of plant diversity on pollinators at different scales in oilseed rape agroecosystems."**

At the earliest possible date

Your tasks:

* To monitor the activity of plant-pollinator interactions in oilseed rape fields.
* Identification of pollinators and plants from observational data.
* To investigate the relationships between pollinators and plant diversity at different scales (field and landscape).

Your profile:

* Bachelor in Ecology, Biodiversity, Agriculture or related disciplines
* Background in botany, entomology, community ecology
* Botanical knowledge expected
* Experience in field work and in the statistical software R (advantageous)
* Good English proficiency

We offer:

* A close and good care
* Exciting insights into the work of a leading institute
* Excellent technical facilities
* Work in inter-disciplinary, multinational teams
* The possibility to incorporate your own ideas from the beginning

Your contact for any questions you may have about the job:

Christophe Dominik (christophe.dominik@ufz.de) +49 345 558 5408

Closing date for applications: 25.03.2019

Place of work: Halle - UFZ