

### Research Associate (PhD candidate)

#### – *Conceptualizing and Measuring Material Flows in a Circular Economy* –

salary group E 13 TV-L, part-time (65%), to be filled for a 4-year term beginning in March 2017.  
Duty location is Freiburg, Germany.

The newly established research group *Circulus: Opportunities and Challenges of Transformation towards a Sustainable Circular Economy* invites applications of suitable candidates for a PhD position.

*Circulus* aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the emergence and potential pathways of a circular economy in Europe and beyond. It asks how the circular economy is discursively constructed in Germany, Europe, and beyond and what material change processes are connected to it. To achieve integrated insights into political, economic, and societal change processes, the group combines perspectives from political science, sociology, economics, and engineering/industrial ecology. The group is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and located in an exciting, international network of scholars from diverse disciplines.

#### About the Job

The PhD project aims to conceptualize and quantify potential changes in global supply chains and scientifically assess dominant assumptions about beneficial socio-environmental impacts of novel products and production processes in a circular economy. To realize these aims, the PhD candidate will design sustainability indicators and model and compare transition paths of alternative futures in a circular economy. In particular, the candidate will carry out life cycle assessments and comparative analyses of environmental performance of selected case studies of forest and agriculture-based products designed according to the vision of a circular economy in Germany and another country (likely the USA). Based on the findings, the candidate will model global environmental impacts of potential alternative production activities. The research will involve travelling within Germany and abroad.

Based on the empirical results, the PhD will prepare academic papers and support the group in deepening and enhancing existing theoretical and analytical approaches to sustainable consumption and production in a circular economy.

#### Qualifications, competencies & experience

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in environmental engineering, industrial ecology, environmental studies, economics, sustainability science, natural resource or waste management or related fields;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English good working knowledge of German;
- Experience with Life Cycle Assessments and/or modelling scenarios;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and to adapt to an international work environment;

- Strong interpersonal skills and a desire to cooperate closely with the group beyond the own project;
- Demonstrated interest in policy relevant analyses;
- Motivation for a career in academic research;
- Ability to engage with researchers and stakeholders from a range of backgrounds.

The following experience is beneficial:

- Demonstrated experience in integrated sustainability assessment, environmental footprint analysis, or environmental input-output analysis;
- Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods;
- Experience in publishing and presenting research findings in peer-reviewed journals and at scientific conferences.

### **We offer**

The position presents the chance to be part of an interdisciplinary group committed to cutting-edge research in sustainability science. The post involves the opportunity to learn new scientific methods and approaches, participation in national and international scientific conferences and the possibility to join a formal PhD program (<https://www.gs.esgc.uni-freiburg.de>). You will be located in an enabling research environment at a faculty with renowned staff, excellent research networks and an international, multi-disciplinary student body in the heart of the Black Forest.

The University of Freiburg is an equal opportunity employer committed to fostering heterogeneity among its employees and increasing the proportion of female scientists. Consequently, we actively encourage applications from qualified women. We also welcome applications from candidates with severe disabilities who will be given preferential consideration in case of equal qualification.

### **To Apply**

Please send a cover and motivation letter (in English, 2 pages max.), a CV, an example of your scientific writing (e.g. Master's thesis), copies of relevant school and university certificates and transcripts, and contact details of at least two references. Please submit all materials through mail or e-mail in one PDF file named with your surname (e.g. Smith.pdf) to

Martina Attinger

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**Application deadline: Monday, December 5, 2016**

**Interviews with shortlisted candidates: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 & Thursday, January 19, 2016 in Freiburg.**

For questions about the job, please contact Dr. Sina Leipold ([sina.leipold@ifp.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:sina.leipold@ifp.uni-freiburg.de)). For more information about the research group, visit [www.circulus-project.de](http://www.circulus-project.de)