COURSE: Latitudinal and altitudinal patterns in ecosystem structure and functioning, with a special emphasis on the roles of bryophytes (12 ECTS)

Content:

In this course, you will be trained in multinational teams (German-French-Finnish) by answering research questions on ecosystem functioning in two strongly contrasting climate zones: subarctic northern Finland and the tropical island of La Réunion, but in comparable vegetation zones: treeline forest and alpine (or arctic) low-stature vegetation. You will learn basic and advanced research skills (experimental design, field skills, data analysis, reporting skills, international collaboration, communication in English). You will be introduced to the diversity that can be found in different ecosystems, with a special focus on plants, and in particular bryophytes (i.e. mosses and liverworts). This plant group is very influential for ecosystem processes in subarctic ecosystems as well as in tropical mountain cloud forests. You will develop your skills in identifying bryophyte groups and in recognizing and studying their important ecosystem roles.

The course is a “blended intensive program” and consists of an online part, where concepts will be introduced, relevant papers discussed and projects prepared by international student groups, and two field-work periods (10 days each), one in northern Finland and one on La Réunion (France), supported by the Erasmus+ program.

Target group: MSc- and Phd-level students in geography and biology

Course locations:

Part 1: Finland, North Lapland, Kevo subarctic research station (of the University of Turku): https://sites.utu.fi/kevo/en/

Part 2: France, La Réunion, Mare-Longue Research Station (of the University of La Réunion): https://stationmarelongue.univ-reunion.fr

Timing:

Virtual part: May-July 2023 (four to five half days on Fridays, exact dates t.b.d.)

Kevo: 21-30 August 2023 (+traveling days)

La Réunion: 4-13 October 2023 (+traveling days)

How to apply:

Send your CV and a 1-page motivation letter (incl. your main scientific interests, skills and experience related to the course topic, relevant courses taken, thesis topic, etc.) as one pdf to:

Prof. Maaike Bader: maaike.bader@uni-marburg.de (students from Marburg)

Dr. Sanna Huttunen: sanna.huttunen@utu.fi (students from Turku)

Dr. Claudine Ah-Peng: claudine.ahpeng@univ-reunion.fr (students from La Réunion)

Application deadline: January 10th, 2023

Student selection: Students will be selected by 31 January 2023

Funding: After being selected for the course, you can apply for short-term ERASMUS+ funding at your university to cover the travel and living costs during the course.