

Applications are invited for one Junior Research Fellow (JRF) under an MoE STARS project at IISER Kolkata on adaptive strategies of tree species in central India

We require one Junior Research Fellow for plant functional trait research in a project titled 'Investigating adaptive strategies of forest trees to temperature and water stress to inform climate-resilient forestation in central India', funded by the Government of India. The JRF will carry out field research and analysis on plant functional traits in tree communities across a large climatic gradient in Madhya Pradesh. The JRF will be based at IISER Kolkata but will dedicate extensive time to fieldwork in the forests of Madhya Pradesh, followed by laboratory analysis at IISER Kolkata.

Title of Project: Investigating adaptive strategies of forest trees to temperature and water stress to inform climate-resilient forestation in central India

1. Number of positions available: 1

2. Funding Agency: STARS- Ministry of Education, Government of India, New Delhi

3. Project PI: Dr Robert John Chandran, Associate Professor, Biological sciences

4. Essential Qualifications: Master's degree in Botany/ Forestry/ Environmental Sciences/ Ecology/ Life Sciences with a strong knowledge and orientation in plant ecology or plant sciences. A minimum of one year of field research experience (excluding MSc/MTech dissertation) in plant ecology.

5. Desirable Qualifications: Theoretical/experimental knowledge in plant physiology, wood wood anatomy, and leaf chemistry and leaf traits. The candidate must be physically fit to work in harsh arid/semi-arid conditions in tough terrain. The ability for field taxonomy of plants would be useful. Applicants who have qualified CSIR/UGC NET-LS and/or GATE will be preferred.

6. Duration and Salary: The employment will initially be for a period of 12 months, which may be extended based on the candidate's performance. The selected candidates will be paid Rs. 31,000 + HRA as per rules.

7. Age limit: Not more than 32 years on the last date of application. Age relaxation will be as per GOI rules.

8. How to Apply: Interested candidates are requested to send by email CV with personal and professional details, and which includes a statement of suitability for the position. Please also include scanned mark sheets, certificates, and proof of work experience. The email address is tecollab.iiserk@gmail.com. Include the subject line "Plant Trait JRF"

9. Last date and time for receiving applications: 25th December 2023, 11:59 pm

10. Interview: Shortlisted candidates will first be called for an online interaction with the project proponents for initial screening after which the candidates will be further shortlisted for a formal interview. The shortlisted candidates will receive a call letter mentioning the time and date of the interview/interaction via email. The formal interview will be conducted online or on site at IISER Kolkata campus, depending on the preference of the candidate. No TA/DA will be provided to the candidate for the interview.

Terms and Conditions

a) Selected candidates are expected to undertake exhaustive fieldwork for several months at a stretch.

b) The project is on-going, and the selected candidates are expected to join immediately after selection.

c) All posts are purely temporary and contractual in nature.

d) The number of candidates to be shortlisted will be decided on the basis of the applications received. Mere fulfillment of the eligibility criteria does not guarantee a call for an interview.

e) The appointment of the candidate will be governed by the terms and conditions of the said project of the funding agency.