Cluster of Excellence GreenRobust Plant Science Vacancies: 2 PhD students, 1 Postdoc in collaborative project 'LEAP'

1 PhD position in Plant Evolutionary Ecology (TVL E13 65%)
1 PhD position in Molecular Plant science (TVL E13 65%)
1 Postdoc position in Plant Evolutionary Ecology (TVL E13 100%)

General framework
Plant Robustness is seen as the ability of plants to maintain function, despite severe perturbations, such as drought, heat or pathogen attack. The goal of the **Green Robust Cluster of Excellence** is to uncover the principles of plant robustness. **LEAP** forms a core part of this strategy by investigating plant robustness to heat and drought in the context of plant competition and relatedness, and whether knowledge of their trade-offs and synergies enables predicting population-level robustness to perturbations.

LEAP (LEveraging ecological theory for plant robustness Across scales: trade-offs and synergies among robustness traits in individuals for Population stability) is an ambitious, collaborative, and interdisciplinary project among seven groups within the framework of the GreenRobust Cluster of Excellence. LEAP will study molecular, physiological and morphological (incl. biomechanical) mechanisms of plant robustness to drought, heat, and competition with other plants. Our approaches range from molecular and individual levels to population-level robustness.

We are looking for **2 PhD students**, **one** in plant evolutionary ecology (with Karl Schmid, Hohenheim; Oliver Bossdorf, Tübingen; Detlef Weigel, Tübingen), **one** in molecular plant science (with Kasper van Gelderen, Heidelberg; Gabriella Mosca, Tübingen and Waltraud Schulze, Hohenheim), and **1 Postdoc** in plant evolutionary ecology (with Katja Tielbörger, Tübingen, Gabriella Mosca, Tübingen). All positions have a running time of **three years.**

Requirements
We are looking for highly motivated candidates who are eager to work in a collaborative environment across three universities and across disciplines (molecular plant science, plant evolutionary ecology and biomechanics). For all three candidates, we are looking for people who value and excel in interdisciplinary and collaborative work, are quick learners, and who are flexible in their thinking. Most importantly the candidates should have a passion for (plant) science and a career in academia.

PhD position I: Plant Evolutionary Ecology: The successful candidate will have a Master degree in Biology, Plant Biology, Plant Ecology, or a related field. Sh/e should have solid experience in experimental design, especially for greenhouse studies with plants, biostatistical analyses, population genetics, and scientific writing and presentation skills.

PhD position II: Molecular Plant Science: The successful candidate will have a Master degree in Biology, Plant Biology, Plant Ecology, or a related field. Sh/e should have experience with methods and concepts in molecular plant biology, experimental plant

biology, computational methods, and scientific writing and presentation skills. Knowledge of bio-mechanics and FEM is a plus.

Postdoc position: Plant Evolutionary Ecology: This is a position with a coordinating role, conceived for an experienced Postdoc to prepare her/him/them to transition to a PI position in the future. The successful candidate will have a PhD in Plant Science, Plant Ecology or equivalent, have experience with designing and analyzing large-scale greenhouse experiments and publishing the results in peer-reviewed journals. Understanding of molecular plant sciences, plant biomechanics and computational approaches would be desirable. The postdoc should be eager to work within a larger international and interdisciplinary group. Additional expertise related to the topics of the two PhD projects is welcome, too.

What we offer

You will have the opportunity to work with world class research groups across fields, within the Greenrobust framework https://greenrobust.de/. LEAP is a unique chance to make a mark in plant molecular and ecological science within a large team of passionate scientists in a world-class collaborative research environment among research groups from Tübingen University, Hohenheim University and Heidelberg University. Besides an exciting research topic, the PhD students and the PostDoc will have access to an extensive network and training program within the GreenRobust Cluster of Excellence, and access to first class instrumentation and facilities. The PhD students will be part of an interdisciplinary PhD school with a structured supervision and training concept.

For more information on the positions, you may contact:
- Prof. Karl Schmid: karl.schmid@uni-hohenheim.de (PhD position I)
- Dr. Kasper van Gelderen kasper.van.gelderen@cos.uni-heidelberg.de (PhD position II)
- Katja Tielbörger katja.tielboerger@uni-tuebingen.de (Postdoc Position)

All three Universities seek to increase diversity in research and teaching and therefore urges qualified academics from underrepresented groups to apply for these positions.

Disabled candidates will be given preference over other equally qualified applicants.

Please send your application including a letter of interest, CV and a list of publications as a single pdf-file to **eve-office@biologie.uni-tuebingen.de**. Please also make sure that **two letters of reference will be sent to the above address independently**. Please indicate clearly to which position you will apply by naming your pdf file as follows: LEAP PhD I_your name.pdf, LEAP PhD II_your name.pdf, LEAP PostDoc_your name.pdf, respectively.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2026. The start of the positions is envisaged for July 1st, 2026.