



PhD Studentship in GIScience and Protected Areas

The GIScience Center at the Department of Geography, University of Zurich invites applications for a PhD studentship in the wider area of Environmental Geoinformatics, developing new GIScience methods for protected areas. The successful applicant will be based in Zurich and supervised by Dr. Patrick Laube.

The GIScience Center hosts several research groups working on diverse topics including digital terrain modeling, uncertainty, geographic data mining and information retrieval, movement analysis, geovisual analytics, and spatial cognition research. For more information, see <http://www.geo.uzh.ch/gis>.

For many years the GIScience Center has maintained close relations to the Swiss National Park (SNP, www.nationalpark.ch), including the initial implementation of the Swiss National Park GIS as well as joint EU- and PhD-projects. The advertised PhD position will build on predecessor projects and focus on the development of applied GIScience methods for protected areas. Possible topics include data integration of heterogeneous data sources (geo and non-geo) supporting ecological research in protected areas, methods for analyzing animal tracking data in movement ecology, 3D data modeling and analysis in ecological studies and monitoring, as well as the use of geosensor networks in protected areas. The successful candidate is expected to choose a research focus and formulate a respective detailed research proposal within the first 6 months of his/her starting day, advised by supervisor Dr. Patrick Laube and the PhD committee. In general, protected areas have a special responsibility and focus as reference areas for biodiversity, global change and ecosystem services, so the proposal should clearly relate to these topics.

Applicants **must have a**

- a) Masters degree in GIScience, geomatics, geography or environmental sciences, or
- b) Masters degree in computer science or software engineering with a *demonstrable interest and experiences* in geographic information science or environmental sciences.

Applicants **must** be able to pursue data-oriented computational research. A good standard of written and spoken English is required.

Applicants **should** have a *demonstrable interest and experiences* in environmental sciences for protected areas or ecological monitoring. Knowledge in methodologies for spatio-temporal data management and analysis, as well as programming and scripting skills are an advantage. Knowledge of German or another official Swiss Language (French, Italian, Romansh) would be a strong asset.

The position will start on 1st March 2012, or as soon as possible thereafter, and is for four years maximally. Applications will close on **15th February 2012**, but we will continue to accept high quality applications until the position is filled. Salary is commensurate to the guidelines of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Interested candidates should send an application letter, a curriculum vitae, and contact details of three referees (including e-mail addresses), in a single PDF document to:

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