

Eawag, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, is an internationally networked aquatic research institute within the ETH Domain (Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology). Eawag conducts research, education and expert consulting to achieve the dual goals of meeting direct human needs for water and maintaining the function and integrity of aquatic ecosystems.

In the Department of Environmental Chemistry at Eawag there is a position opening for a

Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental Biochemistry & Molecular Microbiology (3 years)

Tens of thousands of synthetic organic pollutants enter our environment on a daily basis. Degradation by technical and natural microbial communities is one of the key processes reducing pollutant loads in the environment, yet little is known about the active degraders and/or key enzymes in such complex communities. In the frame of a joint SNF/DFG project, we will combine different state-of-the-art methodologies to further explore links between pollutant degradation and microbial community features, including field monitoring and laboratory experiments using high-resolution mass spectrometry, high-throughput sequencing, and functional metagenomics to identify and further characterize the genetic components behind the observed pollutant degradation reactions. The specific goals of the postdoc position are to characterize environmental microbial communities in terms of their active biotransformation functions, and to biochemically characterize the substrate specificity of key enzymes of interest. The postdoctoral researcher should team up with the PhD students in the project to design and execute biotransformation experiments to support his/her line of research.

Requirements: Candidates for this position are expected to hold a PhD in biochemistry, biotechnology, molecular microbiology or similar fields. Candidates should have working experience in NGS data analysis of microbial communities and/or hands-on experience in standard molecular biology techniques (e.g., gene cloning and expression, protein purification and *in vivo* and/or *in vitro* assay development for functional characterizations). Candidates with additional experience in analytical chemistry methods to analyze protein assays will be preferred. Candidates are expected to have excellent academic records, a keen interest in scientific research, and good English communication skills. Eagerness to demonstrate self-initiative and to supervise student assistants and master/PhD students are required for this position.

Benefits: The environmental chemistry department at Eawag and the research group of Prof. Kathrin Fenner are internationally recognized leaders in the field of chemical fate and will provide for a highly stimulating, interdisciplinary research environment. The position is funded for a three-year period with an attractive remuneration package. The preferred start date is late 2021. Kathrin Fenner is associate professor at the Chemistry Department of the University of Zurich. The project will be run jointly with Dr Michael Zimmermann at EMBL in Heidelberg, Germany. There will be ample opportunity for exchange between both research groups and also for short research stays at EMBL for training and exchange. Eawag and the University of Zurich are located in close vicinity within the Zürich metropolitan area. The city of Zürich is continuously ranked among the top cities in the world for quality of life and is within close proximity to the Swiss Alps.

Eawag is a modern employer and offers an excellent working environment where staff can contribute their strengths, experience and ways of thinking. We promote gender equality and are committed to staff diversity and inclusion. The compatibility of career and family is of central importance to us. For more information about Eawag and our work conditions please consult www.eawag.ch and www.eawag.ch/en/aboutus/working/employment.

Applications should include a concise statement describing your motivation to work on this research project, curriculum vitae, copies of your academic qualifications and two letters of support with the affiliations of the supporting scientists.

The deadline for applications is **31 July 2021**, or until the position is filled.

For further information, please consult www.eawag.ch or contact [Prof. Dr. Kathrin Fenner](#).

We look forward to receiving your application. Please send your application through this webpage, any other way of applying will not be considered. A click on the link below will take you directly to the application form.

<https://apply.refline.ch/673277/0862/pub/1/index.html>

Applications from employment agencies/personnel consultants are not welcome and will not be considered.