

Eawag, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, is a Swiss-based and internationally networked aquatic research institute within the ETH Domain (Swiss Federal Institute of Science and Technology). It is committed to the ecologically, economically and socially responsible management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

The **Departments of Surface Waters - Research and Management (SURF) and Aquatic Ecology (ECO)** are looking for:

## **Two MSc students in River / Floodplain Ecology**

The masters projects will be part of the transdisciplinary research project "Riverscapes – Sediment Dynamics and Connectivity" financed by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and with research partners from river engineering (VAW-ETHZ, LCH-EPFL) and terrestrial ecology (WSL). The Riverscapes Project aims at understanding the complex interactions between sediment dynamics and floodplain functioning of regulated rivers, towards supporting the ecological restoration of sediment regimes in rivers as requested by the Swiss Water Protection Act.

The overall focus of the two research projects is to examine the linkage between sediment dynamics and floodplain function in regulated rivers. Although two separate projects, we envisage considerable collaboration and overlap between the two students creating an ideal environment in which to undertake Masters research. The first project will be based at Kastanienbaum near Lucerne and will focus on how sediment traps may affect aquatic habitat and ecological diversity with a particular focus on the resistance and resilience of invertebrate communities. The second project will be based at Dübendorf near Zurich and will focus on how sediment traps may influence riparian arthropods and resource subsidies (trophic dynamics) of water bodies. Both projects will consist of considerable amounts of field and lab work.

The two projects would suit students seeking to conduct a 12-month masters thesis but shorter durations (e.g. 6-months) would also be possible. Applicants should be studying for a Master's degree in a relevant field of biology, ecology, or environmental science, enjoy working outdoors and conducting analyses in the laboratory and have an interest in ecohydrology, ecosystem functioning and management of riverine floodplains. Excellent communication skills in English and experience in team-work are essential. We anticipate the starting date for the two projects to be between February and March 2019 to enable familiarization and development of the projects and literature before sampling commences in late May 2019.

Are you interested? We look forward to hearing from you. For further information, please contact Dr. Kate Mathers for information regarding the aquatic project ([kate.mathers@eawag.ch](mailto:kate.mathers@eawag.ch)) or Carmen Kowarik ([carmen.kowarik@eawag.ch](mailto:carmen.kowarik@eawag.ch)) regarding the resource subsidies project.