

Postdoc in exploring and identifying soil microbial communities as novel soil health indicator

The Department of Agroecology at Aarhus University, Denmark, is offering a postdoctoral position in exploring microbial communities in soil and their link to established/novel soil health indicators, starting 15 December 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter. The position will be available for a 3-year period.

You will be part of a research environment focusing on soil health, digital soil mapping and soil microbial communities. You will be contributing to specifically the area of handling microbial data to assess the spatial distribution of several soil properties and fungal communities using samples collected from multiple habitats and land use types at a national scale. The main focus of your position will be to explore the relation between microbial communities and established/novel soil health indicators in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team including pedologists and other experts.

You will work experimentally with soil samples and various types of spatial data collected from multiple sources and at different scales.

We expect that you will be an important part of the research environment and that you will contribute positively to the social working environment. We also expect that you will take part in our teaching activities and that you will report research results in high-impact scientific journals.

Your profile

We are searching for a highly motivated candidate who has

- A PhD in soil science, agroecology, environmental science, biology, data science or similar
- Collaborative skills and ability to participate actively in teams
- A fondness for taking the initiative and the motivation to pursue a scientific career
- Documented experience in scientific writing and publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals
- Research experience in some of the areas of data science, microbial ecology, soil science, biostatistics and -informatics, botany and ecosystems

Further, we will prefer candidates with some of the following qualifications:

- Teaching and supervision experience at the BSc and MSc level
- Interest and preferably experience in developing competitive national and international research applications
- Experience in managing large datasets and modelling
- Experience in planning and conducting laboratory work
- Experience in planning and conducting field work
- Insight into and experience with applied statistics, microbial ecology, soil health indicators and interdisciplinary collaboration

Who we are

At the Department of Agroecology, our main goal is to contribute to sustainable solutions to some of the world's biggest problems within the areas of soil, plants, animals, humans, and the environment. We want to make a difference by contributing to both fundamental knowledge generation and the attainment of sustainable production systems via innovative research, contracted policy advice, and education. We offer professional laboratories, greenhouses, semi-field, and field-scale research facilities, advanced computing capacities as well as an extensive national and international researcher network. The department consists of eight research sections with around 320 highly engaged employees, of which approximately 50% are scientific staff. More information can be found [here](#).

We believe in encouraging inclusion, acceptance, and understanding by employing staff who bring diverse perspectives to our department.

Application Deadline:
11 August 2025

Faculty:
Faculty of Technical Sciences

Institute/Faculty:
Department of Agroecology

Academic contact person:
Lis Wollesen de Jonge
Professor
lis.w.de.jonge@agro.au.dk
+4524940550

Vacant positions:
1

Hours per week:
37

Number of months:
36

Expected date of accession:
15/12/2025

What we offer

- An informal and multicultural research environment with high professionalism, where accountability, support, flexibility, and close collaboration are prerequisites for solving the core tasks
- A good social environment with activities and routines that make it possible to talk across and enhance the inclusive relationship, and where mutual trust, respect, kindness, and professional sparring are emphasized
- A flexible workplace with a good work-life balance
- A workplace where we prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion
- An engaging and varied working environment, where two days rarely resemble each other. We are often busy, and we work creatively for solutions to societal needs

Special benefits when working in Denmark

- Subsidized preschool childcare and a free education system from primary school up to university level
- Universal health insurance as a resident of Denmark, including family members officially residing in Denmark
- Five weeks paid holiday per year
- In connection with childbirth: the right to have a total of 52 weeks shared maternal/paternal leave with full or partial salary pay

Place of Work

The place of work is Aarhus University, Campus Viborg. The affiliation will be with the Department of Agroecology.

Contact information

More information can be obtained from Professor Lis Wollesen de Jonge (lis.w.de.jonge@agro.au.dk) or Head of the Soil Physics and Hydropedology Section, Professor Mogens Humlekrog Greve (greve@agro.au.dk).

Application procedure

Shortlisting is used. This means that after the deadline for applications – and with the assistance from the assessment committee chairman, and the appointment committee if necessary, – the head of department selects the candidates to be evaluated. All applicants will be notified whether or not their applications have been sent to an expert assessment committee for evaluation. The selected applicants will be informed about the composition of the committee, and each applicant is given the opportunity to comment on the part of the assessment that concerns him/her self. Once the recruitment process is completed a final letter of rejection is sent to the deselected applicants.

Letter of reference

If you want a referee to upload a letter of reference on your behalf, please state the referee's contact information when you submit your application. We strongly recommend that you make an agreement with the person in question before you enter the referee's contact information, and that you ensure that the referee has enough time to write the letter of reference before the application deadline.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to ensure that letters of reference received after the application deadline will be taken into consideration.

If you wish to add a referee **after** you have submitted your application, you must send this person's details (name, job title, place of work, and email address) as well as the name of the position you have applied for to: HR.Nattech@au.dk

Formalities and salary range

Technical Sciences refers to the [Ministerial Order on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Danish Universities under the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation](#).

The application must be in English and include a curriculum vitae, degree certificate, a complete list of publications, a statement of future research plans and information about research activities, teaching portfolio and verified information on previous teaching experience (if any). Guidelines for applicants can be found [here](#).

Appointment shall be in accordance with the collective labour agreement between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations. Further information on qualification requirements and job content may be found in the [Memorandum on Job Structure for Academic Staff at Danish Universities](#).

Salary depends on seniority as agreed between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Confederation of Professional Associations.

Aarhus University's ambition is to be an attractive and inspiring workplace for all and to foster a culture in which each individual has opportunities to thrive, achieve and develop. We view equality and diversity as assets, and we welcome all applicants.

Research activities will be evaluated in relation to actual research time. Thus, we encourage applicants to specify periods of leave without research activities, in order to be able to subtract these periods from the span of the scientific career during the evaluation of scientific productivity.

Aarhus University offers a broad variety of services for international researchers and accompanying families, including relocation service and career counselling to expat partners. Read more [here](#). Please find more information about entering and working in Denmark [here](#).

Aarhus University also offers a Junior Researcher Development Programme targeted at career development for postdocs at AU. You can read more about it [here](#).

The application must be submitted via Aarhus University's recruitment system, which can be accessed under the job advertisement on Aarhus University's website.

Aarhus University

Aarhus University is an academically diverse and research-intensive university with a strong commitment to high-quality research and education and the development of society nationally and globally. The university offers an inspiring research and teaching environment to its 38,000 students (FTEs) and 8,300 employees, and has an annual revenues of EUR 935 million. Learn more at www.international.au.dk/