

# Junior Professor Chair in Ecology

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## Laboratoire d'Écologie, Systématique & Évolution

CNRS - Université Paris Saclay, France

As part of the new National Strategy for Research of the French Government, we are looking for highly competent and motivated candidates to fill a tenure track in the field of quantitative ecology, that will lead to a permanent, full professorship within 5 years after initial recruitment. A starting package of 200 000€ is provided.

### Research profile:

This is an interdisciplinary position, grounded in quantitative ecology, but colored with humanities, in particular environmental economics. Ideal candidates are quantitative ecologists working with economics, rather than environmental economists. The Junior Professor will work during the duration of the Chair (5 years) on the InvaCost project (all details available here: [www.invacost.fr](http://www.invacost.fr)), and then will focus on either other areas of biological invasions, or on other drivers of biodiversity loss, ideally keeping an interdisciplinary approach. The Chair will consist of statistical analyses of the InvaCost data base on the economic costs of biological invasions, including extrapolations of observed costs, forecast of expected costs in the future and relationships with ecological impacts.

### Conditions:

The recruited Junior Professor will benefit from the following:

- A guaranteed tenure after five years if the Chair was satisfactory (e.g., high quality publication output, good student and postdoc supervision, ...). Expectations will be determined with the candidate at the contract stage.
- A monthly salary (before taxes) in accordance with that of an assistant professor (higher scale of national grid), and including national coverage of health and unemployment.
- A reduction of the teaching load for the first 5 years, with only 64h/year instead of 192h
- A starting grant (University) of 200 000€ allowing the hiring of one 3-year PhD and one 2-year postdoc, or one 3-year postdoc and associated running costs.
- A supportive and dynamic research team in one of the best labs in ecology in France

## **Applicant profile:**

- Extensive expertise in quantitative ecology, if possible in invasion biology.
- Extensive experience in statistical analyses and modelling, under R or similar.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English and excellent communication skills. Spoken French is expected along the five years, as some teaching will be delivered in French, but is not required at this stage.
- A strong interest for student/postdoc supervision/mentoring.
- A strong ability/willingness to work in a team. Although constructed and led by our team, the InvaCost project is based on an international consortium of >100 experts from 39 countries, and excellent collaborative skills are therefore a must. Project management, coordination and strategic planning are therefore indispensable.
- Applications are particularly welcome from women and minority ethnic candidates who are under-represented in academic positions.
- Much importance will be given to personal skills. In particular, we place strong weight on motivation, ambition, and a positive attitude towards the many difficulties inherent to academic research.
- We are looking for a colleague with scientific maturity, technical skills, innovative thinking, willingness to learn new techniques and methods and a natural tendency to share and communicate.

## **Requirements:**

- To be eligible for this Chair, the candidate must hold a PhD degree in ecology and at least one complete year of postdoctoral position in a different lab, if possible, a different country.
- Experience in environmental economics, or a very convincing expression of intention to work in interdisciplinary ecology for the five coming years.
- In the ranking of qualified applicants, particular importance will be given to scientific excellence.
- This research project requires a highly creative individual with strong analytical and communication skills.
- Teaching experience and teaching motivations are needed.
- Supervision of PhD / postdoc experience is not a prerequisite but it would be a plus.
- The official decree is available here: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000044518389>

## **Research Group:**

The Junior Professor Chair will be hosted at the University of Paris-Saclay, in the context of its new strategic scheme to develop a world class centre of research on the Saclay Plateau near Paris, France. Ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the world in the last Shanghai University Ranking, and 1<sup>st</sup> in France, Université Paris-Saclay's institutions comprises no less than 15% of the French research, with 300 laboratories in all fields, within which more than 10,000 lecturers and researchers produce over 10,000 publications per year. The Université Paris-Saclay is already famous for the top-level strength of its founding institutes, notably in Physics (several Nobel Prizes) and Mathematics (several Field Medals), and wishes to reach similar excellence level in Biology. Already in first position in Ecology at the world level, France would benefit from a boost of this discipline within this new institution. In this context, the University has created

the IDEEV Institute (Institut pour la Diversité, l'Écologie et l'Évolution du Vivant), that will host the Junior Professor Chair.

To host the IDEEV, a large building is being built in this new University Paris-Saclay campus. It will be ready in January 2022 and will regroup over 400 research staff from three founder research units supervised by University Paris Sud, the CNRS the IRD and AgroParisTech, covering a large span of research in Ecology and in Evolution. This new building on the University Paris-Saclay Campus will span over 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> of offices, experimental labs and nine scientific platforms, to which will be associated several experimental greenhouses, a technical module, agricultural technical halls and an experimental garden.

Within this Institute, the Biodiversity Dynamics & Macroecology research team is a newly constituted research group focused on the study of the impacts of human activities on biodiversity. It belongs to the [Laboratoire d'Écologie, Systématique & Évolution](#) and currently consists of two CNRS researchers (Franck Courchamp & Céline Bellard), an Université Paris Saclay Assistant Professor (Elsa Bonnaud), and our invited scientists, postdocs, PhD students and research interns. We hope to complete our burgeoning team with a permanent position of an Assistant Professor (hopefully around 2024), an IR CNRS (departure of our IR for the USA in 2015, which we hope to replace since), and a technician (University staff) and we welcome CNRS applications. Our group is focused on biological invasions and climate change, with a significant part outside these two drivers, and a combo of approaches that favour data analyses at the macro ecological scales. Our research is detailed on our website, and on the websites of the different team members:

<https://www.biodiversitydynamics.fr/>

### **Timeline:**

- Applications will open in **January 2022**
- Applications will likely close mid- or end of **February 2022**
- Interviews will be conducted in **March 2022**
- The chair will be funded for 5 years, starting from **Spring 2022** - at the earliest. The teaching will start in **September 2022**.

In addition to the official application files (to be communicated by the university at a later date), interested candidates should send as soon as possible a *curriculum vitae*, a brief summary of research experience and interests, and names of at least three references to:

[franck.courchamp@cnrs.fr](mailto:franck.courchamp@cnrs.fr)