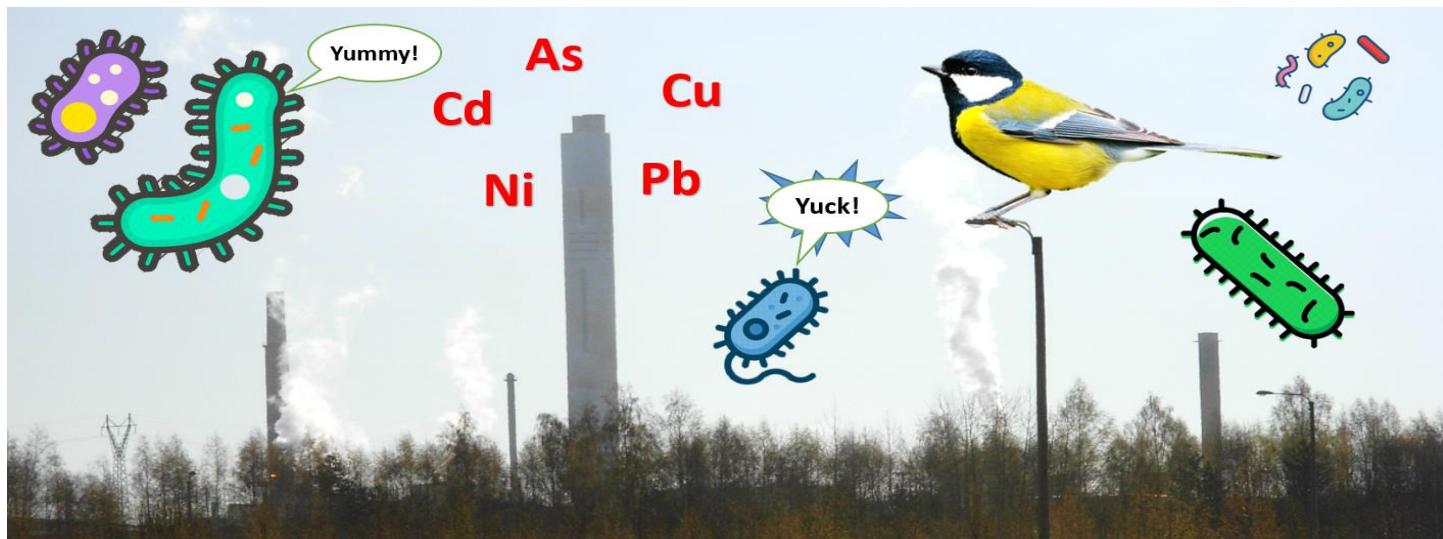


Two-year PhD position at Department of Biology, University of Turku, Finland:



Pollution-related bird-microbe associations

We are seeking for a creative, self-motivated and career-oriented PhD candidate to work in our new project "*Pollution-related bird-microbe associations*" funded by the Academy of Finland.

Project description: We have outlined three ambitious interconnected studies to explore the effects of metal pollution on early-life microbial environment; 1) Composition and diversity of avian microbiota in metal polluted environments, 2) Experimental exposure manipulations, and 3) Pan-European comparison of gut microbiota at polluted sites. We will explore bacterial abundance and diversity in nestlings (gut, skin) and nest materials of three common model species (great tit, blue tit and pied flycatcher) at metal polluted areas in Finland and around Europe. The major part of the fieldwork focuses to a Finnish copper-nickel smelter in Harjavalta, an area with highest rates of metal pollution in Finland. Responses of microbiota to pollution, habitat, microclimate, taxonomy, and dietary differences will be measured and connected to physiological (immune response, oxidative status) and ecological (brood size, growth, survival) measures of individual performance. The PhD position will involve microbial analyses (16S sequencing, bioinformatics), biochemical/physiological analyses and data collection (fecal and blood samples) in the field with the rest of the team.

Qualifications and merits: We seek highly self-motivated, innovative and career-oriented candidates with a broad interest in environmental ecology and ecotoxicology. The successful candidate should have a relevant MSc degree (or equivalent) in biology/genetics/physiology/microbiology/ecology. Experience in ecological field work + physiological/chemical/microbiological laboratory analyses is an advantage. Experience in using a statistical software (e.g. SAS + tools for microbial bioinformatics) is a merit. The applicant is expected to have a good knowledge (spoken and written) of the English language. The applicant should have training to conduct animal experiments and readiness to spend time in Harjavalta during the field periods. A driving license is an absolute necessity.

Salary and appointment: The current contract is made for two years. The successful candidate will be employed on a postgraduate PhD position (salary is starting at 2261 €/month), which entitles the holder to full social benefits. Further funding can be applied from the University of Turku graduate School (UTUGS). The position is available from January 1, 2022.

To apply: Applications should include 1. Short cover letter describing the background of the applicant and motivation for seeking the position, 2. CV, and 3. The names and email addresses of 1-2 referees. Applications are to be sent to: teeva@utu.fi

Further information: please contact Dr. Tapio Eeva (teeva@utu.fi) or Dr. Miia Rainio (miikoi@utu.fi).