

**David L Nieland**

---

**Subject:** PhD vacancy - Nitrogen Cycling in Coral Reefs

please find attached the announcement for a PhD vacancy in coral reef biogeochemistry / ecology / microbiology with the Marine Ecology Group at the University of Bremen, Germany. All details regarding requirements and application procedures are provided below. Feel free to pass this announcement on to potentially interested parties.

Please *\*do not respond directly\** to this email. For specific questions about the position, feel free to contact Prof. Christian Wild ([christian.wild@uni-bremen.de](mailto:christian.wild@uni-bremen.de)).

Thank you!

Warm regards,

Claudia

-----

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The Marine Ecology & Coral Reef Ecology Group at the University of Bremen has a vacancy for a Ph.D. student to start in May/June 2016 within the framework of the new project Nitrogen Cycling in Coral Reef Organisms under Environmental Change (NICE) funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

**Project description:**

Nitrogen (N) is one of the limiting nutrients in highly productive coral reef environments and thus plays a key role in the metabolism of reef organisms and the functioning of their ecosystems. Recent research revealed that microbe-mediated N<sub>2</sub> fixation is ubiquitous in coral reefs, and that active N<sub>2</sub>-fixing prokaryotes are associated with many different reef organisms. However, the interplay of N<sub>2</sub> fixation with other key processes of the marine N cycle, i.e. nitrification and denitrification, and the susceptibility of all these processes to key environmental disturbances (e.g. warming and nutrient enrichment) has not yet been investigated in coral reefs. NICE will thus quantify all major processes and identify associated microbial players of the N cycle in hard

corals and other common reef organisms. An interdisciplinary approach combining expertise from coral physiology, molecular microbial ecology, and biogeochemistry will be used. The field work for this project will be carried out at the Central Red Sea in close collaboration with the partners Prof. Dr. Christian Voolstra and Dr. Benjamin Kürten from the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, and PD Dr. Ulrich Struck from Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin. The appointment is for a three-year period. Salary will be according to the German TV-L 13 for a 65 % position.

**Requirements:**

Applicants should hold a Master degree in marine biology, microbial ecology, or related fields. They should fluently speak English and possess good scientific writing skills. Expertise in molecular, physiological, and biogeochemical tools is an asset.

**Application:**

To apply, please send a motivation letter and a complete CV with list of publications and skills along with names of two referees (with email addresses and phone numbers) in a single pdf-file to Prof. Christian Wild ([christian.wild@uni-bremen.de](mailto:christian.wild@uni-bremen.de)) above. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Travel expenses for interviews cannot be covered.

**Closing Date:**

March 15, 2016 or until a qualified candidate is identified.