Professorship (all levels) in the Biogeochemistry of the Earth Surface System

The Faculty of Geosciences and Environment (FGSE) at the University of Lausanne invites applications for a Professorship in the Biogeochemistry of the Earth Surface System. The successful candidate will have:

- an exceptional record of peer review publication in leading research journals;
- presented their work at major international meetings in their research field;
- a record of research funding and international recognition;
- an international network of collaboration that will aid the development of their research profile; and
- a capacity to communicate their work in ways that motivate and inspire others in their research field and so become a strong contributor to our teaching programmes.

We are particularly interested in recruiting a young scientist who has:

- expertise in biogeochemical cycles at the Earth’s surface and their relationship with Earth surface processes;
- a focus on terrestrial and/or freshwater systems, working on processes and timescales that relate to the Present, through the Holocene, to any period during the Quaternary;
- a multi-method approach including one or more of laboratory based research, field data collection and/or biogeochemical modelling.

The post will be based in the newly created Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics (IDYST: www.unil.ch/idyst/home.html), and will contribute to the Institute’s pole of excellence in Water and Element Cycles (WEC). The appointee will build upon the Institute’s outstanding laboratory facilities (www.unil.ch/idyst/home/menuinst/lab-facilities.html), complementing rather than duplicate our existing expertise.

Teaching

The candidate must have a strong commitment to excellence in teaching environmental biogeochemistry. It is expected that the successful candidate will contribute to Masters courses in: (a) Biogeosciences (www.biogeosciences.ch), jointly taught with the University of Neuchâtel, and (b) Environmental Geoscience, as well as to undergraduate courses notably in relation to laboratory and field biogeochemistry.

The candidate will also participate in doctoral programs and supervise Master and Ph.D. theses. A good command in both French and English is preferable. If French is not the native language, teaching ability in French has to be acquired within two years of the appointment. The University provides language courses to aid with this acquisition.
Research

The successful candidate is expected to have the potential to develop an internationally competitive research program in the field of Biogeochemistry of the Earth Surface System. Crucially, applicants must be able to demonstrate how they would be able to work synergistically both with other members of IDYST, and the FGSE more widely. The candidate is expected to attract external funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation, and European or other international programs.

Administration

The successful candidate will participate in administrative tasks within the Faculty, including various committees of the Faculty of Geosciences and Environment.

General information

The Faculty of Geosciences and Environment [FGSE] of the University of Lausanne is a young and dynamic faculty, launched in 2003. It consists of three research institutes (Earth Science, Geography and Sustainability, and Earth Surface Dynamics) and a School to manage teaching and training across these research domains. The FGSE specifically promotes interdisciplinary research and teaching, within and between the social and natural sciences. It is part of a larger network composed of several institutional partners from Geneva [UNIGE], the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne [EPFL], and Neuchâtel [UNINE]. It also works with regional, national and international partners.

The Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics is based around four research poles: Geomatics and Spatial Modelling; Geomorphology, the Cryosphere and Mountains; Natural and Anthropogenic Ecosystems; and Water and Element Cycles. Members of the Institute join one or more of these research poles which not only serve to make our research visible but act as foci for researchers outside of their individual research groups. Indeed, as a young Institute, significant investment of time and money is being put into developing interdisciplinary capacity and the appointee, as with all Professors of the Institute, would be expected to contribute to related activities.

The Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics and the Institute of Earth Sciences share an outstanding suite of laboratories (details available at www.unil.ch/idyst/home/menuinst/lab-facilities.html and www.unil.ch/iste/home/menuinst/laboratoires.html). The Faculty invests CHF500k per year in new research initiatives, aided by additional funds from the Direction of the University for more major investments. Additional funds may be available to support the specific laboratory needs of a new appointment. The Faculty also operates an experimental basin in the Vaudoises Alps (the Vallon de Nant). All Professors within the Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics receive an annual financial allocation to aid their research activities as well as support with teaching in the form of teaching assistants, who also register for PhD research.

The Faculty of Geosciences and Environment and the University of Lausanne is scenically located on the shores of Lake Geneva, a region of outstanding natural beauty offering a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere and an exceptionally high quality of life. It is part of an excellent public transport network, with both Geneva and Zürich airports reachable by train quickly and easily, as are the Alps and Jura mountains.
Applications

Appointment will be at the Assistant Professor level (tenure track), with Associate or Full Professor status achieved within 5-6 years. However, exceptionally, we will consider outstanding candidates for direct appointment to the Full Professor level. The University of Lausanne is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women are particularly encouraged.

Application deadline: **November 30th, 2015**
Starting date: **August 1st, 2016** (or to be agreed upon)

Short-listed candidates are likely to be interviewed on the 12th or 13th January 2016.

Applications are to be submitted by e-mail only to the Faculty of Geosciences and Environment (bess.gse@unil.ch). The application material should include:

- a letter explaining the reasons for applying
- a full Curriculum Vitae including the year of birth and the date of thesis with its title
- a list of publications
- a statement of research and teaching goals and interest (not exceeding 3 pages)
- pdfs files of the five most significant publications
- the names and contact information of five referees.

The full application should be contained in one pdf file, except for publications that may be submitted sequentially. The maximum file size that can be received by the University of Lausanne e-mail system is 30 Mb.

Further information about the Faculty is available at www.unil.ch/gse and the Institute at www.unil.ch/idyst.

For any specific enquiries, please contact: Prof. Stuart Lane (stuart.lane@unil.ch) Director of the Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics.

The application should be sent electronically to: bess.gse@unil.ch. An automatic reply will acknowledge reception of the file. In case of problem, please contact gaetan.bertholet@unil.ch