



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES
Section des sciences de la Terre

Institut F.-A. Forel

Assistant / PhD position in environmental geochemistry

An assistant/PhD position is available at the Institut F.-A. Forel, University of Geneva. The position is open within the context of a large effort to study limnological processes at the interface between the littoral zone and the open water of a large lake (see <http://www.leman21.ch/> for the general research environment).

Lake Geneva has a long and spectacular history of mercury contamination. Although the present Hg concentration in Lake Geneva sediments and fish is generally much lower than in the past, some hot spots (such as the Bay of Vidy) indicate a persistent loading of mercury to the lake. In some other areas, the Hg concentrations in sediments are still much higher than geochemical background. The goal of the research is to determine the fate of Hg derived from the hot spot areas and its potential dispersal into the deeper areas of the lake. Using the sampling methods such as sediment traps, sediment grab and coring, the candidate will perform measurements of total Hg and monomethyl Hg (MMHg) associated with particles and colloids. He/she will collaborate with other PhD students working on related issues and will be part of the doctoral school on processes in lakes.

In addition to the research project, the position implies teaching activities at the Earth and the Environment Sciences section of the Faculty of Sciences.

Profile: The successful applicant will possess a master degree in environmental sciences, earth sciences, or chemistry, with a first-class academic record. The applicant should have interests in intensive field and laboratory work. Good spoken and written command of English are required, and French is an asset. Ideally the work will commence in May 2010.

Applications including a CV, names and affiliations of two references, and a motivation letter should be sent (or e-mailed) before March 1st, 2010 to:

Dr Jean-Luc Loizeau, Institut F.-A. Forel, Section des sciences de la Terre et de l'environnement, Université de Genève, 1290 Versoix, Switzerland.

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