

Science diplomacy for Earth system science

The International Masters Program *Earth System Dynamics and Evolution* funded by the Elite Network of the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and The Arts invites applications for a post-doctoral candidate position (Entgelt-/Bes.Gr. TV-L E13 or A13 100%, up to 5 years) at the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU), Germany.

The position will **start 1st October 2026** (fixed start date).

Research: *Training the next generation of Earth system scientists for global collaboration*

This project will develop a research agenda that conceptualizes science diplomacy as a core competency of Earth system science. The project should investigate how scientific knowledge related to different Earth system spheres circulates across national, institutional, and cultural boundaries and how international cooperation shapes responses to global environmental challenges and is shaped by them. Particular attention should be given to Africa–Europe collaborations, including questions of equitable partnership, capacity strengthening, data access, and co-production of knowledge in areas such as climate adaptation, environmental monitoring, land-use change, animal tracking, or transboundary resource management. The aim is to explore how scientific collaboration can address geopolitical tensions and build trust across both national and disciplinary borders.

Teaching: The candidate will be responsible for supporting training in science diplomacy, science communication and Science and Technology Studies and the development of the Science Diplomacy Lab located at the Chair of Science, Technology and Gender Studies at FAU. The Science Diplomacy Lab is an initiative in the making that aims to serve as a platform for training, research, and international engagement, linking Earth system science with diplomacy, policy processes, and equitable global partnerships. The candidate will teach up to 5 SWS (Semesterwochenstunden), approximately 3-4 contact hours per week during the semester. Candidates will also contribute, in line with career stage and interests, to broader program activities, including student admissions, shared infrastructure initiatives, and networking events.

Required skills:

- PhD in Science and Technology Studies, Environmental Humanities, Geography, Anthropology, Political Science, International Relations, History of Science or a related field relevant to science diplomacy and global environmental governance.
- Demonstrated expertise in science diplomacy, the science–policy interface, or international scientific cooperation in the context of global environmental change
- Strong grounding in humanities or social science approaches to knowledge production, including critical perspectives on power, equity, and epistemic justice in global research collaborations
- Experience analyzing how scientific knowledge circulates across cultural, institutional, and geopolitical contexts and shapes environmental decision-making
- Proven experience with interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research linking Earth system science with societal, political, or cultural dimensions
- Experience with qualitative or mixed-methods research approaches, such as interviews, archival research, discourse analysis, or participatory methods
- Teaching experience or training in science communication, science diplomacy, Science and Technology Studies, environmental humanities, or related areas
- Affinity for interdisciplinary research questions
- Demonstrated capacity for independent research
- Willingness to conduct independent research. Habilitation is an option.
- Good reporting and presentation skills
- Excellent level of written and spoken English
- Ability to work independently, to critically assess own results, to cooperate within a wider research team across disciplines and to engage with the development of the Science Diplomacy Lab

Advantageous skills:

- Interest in Africa–Europe scientific cooperation and the role of research collaboration in addressing geopolitical tensions and building trust
- A BA in the sciences will be advantageous

Application guidelines

For your application, please send a single PDF to es-master@fau.de. The subject of the email should refer to the individual project/position you are applying for.

For **post docs**, the PDF should comprise:

- Cover letter (indicating which project/position you are applying for, and stating your background and motivation for the project) (max. 1 page)
- CV, including a list of relevant publications (max. 3 pages)
- A short research and teaching concept (max. 2 pages)
- University degree certificates
- Contact details for two potential references

Deadline for applications: 09.04.26.

For further information on this sub-project contact: Prof. Dr. Maria Rentetzi, Chair of Gender Studies and Technology, FAU, e-mail: maria.rentetzi@fau.de.