JOB DETAILS

Field(s) of Specialization:	**Aquatic Ecology, Experimental Ecology, Wetland Ecology, Ecosystem Ecology, Climate Change**
Position Title:	Ph.D. / MSc Student
Department:	Marine Biology and Fisheries
Location:	Mersin - TURKEY
Summary Description:	We are seeking highly motivated **PhD/MSc students** to join the **Aquatic Ecology Research Group** at the Middle East Technical University Institute of Marine Sciences (METU IMS), Mersin, Türkiye. Our group currently offers funded graduate research opportunities within ongoing projects focusing on **Mediterranean coastal wetlands, blue carbon, greenhouse-gas emissions, climate change, salinity dynamics, and the ecological impacts of wetland fires**. One major research theme, **SAL-CARB GÖKSU**, investigates how salinity levels and fluctuations influence **carbon cycling, ecosystem metabolism, and greenhouse-gas emissions** in the blue-carbon habitats of the Göksu Delta. Research will combine field observations with automated GHG chambers, high-frequency CH_4 and CO_2 measurements, water-quality sensors, ecosystem metabolism measurements, and quantitative ecological analyses. A second research theme investigates the ecological consequences of **reed fires in Mediterranean coastal wetlands**. Field observations in the Göksu Delta will be combined with controlled experiments at the **METU IMS Mesocosm Facility** to determine how fire-derived ash interacts with environmental stressors, including warming and salinity, to influence water quality, nutrient dynamics, ecosystem functioning, and aquatic communities. The successful candidates will therefore have opportunities to participate in **field research in the Göksu Delta, large-scale mesocosm experiments, high-frequency environmental monitoring, greenhouse-gas measurements, laboratory analyses, and quantitative ecological research**. Students will principally work with **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Korhan Özkan** and the Aquatic Ecology Research Group at METU IMS and will be part of a strong national and international collaboration network including **Aarhus University (Denmark), Çankırı Karatekin University, Hacettepe University, Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University**, and other collaborating institutions. Candidates from diverse academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply, including **biology, ecology, environmental sciences, marine sciences, environmental engineering, molecular biology, chemistry, earth sciences, and related disciplines**. Previous experience in aquatic ecology, fieldwork, laboratory analyses, taxonomy, statistics, ecological modelling, or programming is advantageous but not essential. We particularly welcome candidates interested in interdisciplinary research combining **field observations, experimental ecology, environmental monitoring, and quantitative approaches**.

Funded PhD positions are available through ongoing research projects. Eligible PhD candidates may additionally receive supplementary scholarship support from the METU Development Foundation.

More information about our research group: METU IMS Aquatic Ecology Research Group

Information about graduate programmes, admission requirements, and applications: METU IMS Graduate Programs

For informal inquiries, candidates are encouraged to contact **okorhan@metu.edu.tr**.

School/Institute/Unit:	METU – Institute of Marine Sciences
Minimum Degree Required:	Degree in biology, ecology, oceanography, earth sciences, applied mathematics, or any of the physical, biological, and chemical sciences.
Required special knowledge, abilities, and skills:	▪ Excellent command of English, both written and oral. ▪ Basic knowledge of aquatic ecosystems, ecology, or environmental sciences. ▪ Strong motivation for scientific research and willingness to participate in fieldwork and experimental studies. ▪ Ability to work effectively within an interdisciplinary and international research team. ▪ Good quantitative, organizational, and communication skills. ▪ Creativity, flexibility, and ability to work independently as well as collaboratively.
Preferred special knowledge, abilities, and skills:	Previous experience in one or more of the following areas will be considered an advantage: ▪ Aquatic or wetland ecology ▪ Field sampling and environmental monitoring ▪ Mesocosm or experimental ecology ▪ Greenhouse-gas or biogeochemical measurements ▪ Water-quality and nutrient analyses ▪ Plankton or other aquatic organism identification ▪ Statistics and ecological modelling ▪ R, Python, or other computational/programming tools ▪ Environmental sensors and high-frequency monitoring
Additional Information:	Several funded graduate research opportunities are available through ongoing projects of the Aquatic Ecology Research Group. Eligible PhD students may additionally benefit from supplementary scholarship support provided by the METU Development Foundation. Students will have access to the research infrastructure of METU Institute of Marine Sciences, including the METU IMS Mesocosm Facility,

	laboratories, field equipment, and ongoing long-term research activities in the Göksu Delta.
Posting Date:	Autumn, 2026
Closing Date:	Open Until Filled
Date Review Begins:	As soon as applications are received.
Required Applicant Documents to Submit:	Applicants are asked to submit a CV, a 2-page (max.) statement of research experience and interests, and names of /references from at least 2 references to the **okorhan@metu.edu.tr**. as a single PDF file.
Proposed Start Date:	Immediate
Optional Applicant Documents for Upload:	-
Quick link for Posting:	Funded PhD Opportunities in Aquatic Ecology at METU IMS We are looking for motivated PhD students interested in Mediterranean coastal wetlands, blue carbon, greenhouse gases, climate change, wetland fires, field ecology, and mesocosm experiments. Research will combine fieldwork in the Göksu Delta, large-scale experiments at the METU IMS Mesocosm Facility, high-frequency environmental monitoring, and quantitative ecological analyses. Funded positions are available, with additional METU Development Foundation scholarship support for eligible PhD candidates. For inquiries and applications: okorhan@metu.edu.tr Research group: ae-ims.metu.edu.tr Graduate programmes: METU IMS Graduate Programs
Salary:	TÜBİTAK PhD Scholarship / Project Scholarship + supplementary METU Development Foundation support for eligible PhD students
Pay Basis:	Monthly, subject to the conditions and duration of the relevant scholarship/project.
Position open to internal candidates only?	No