

The Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn is an international research university that offers a wide range of degree programs. With 200 years of history, about 38,000 students, over 6,000 employees, and an excellent domestic and international reputation, Bonn University is among Germany's leading universities.

The Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation (INRES) is looking for one

Doctoral Researcher in Soil-Root Interactions (65% TV-L E13)

The research will focus on **how soil and management conditions affect soil-root interactions, plant biomass allocation, and yield stability** and will be supervised by Jun. Prof. Janina Dierks (head of the group [Sustainable Crop Production](#), University of Bonn) and Dr. Robert Koller (IBG-2, [Plant Sciences](#), Forschungszentrum Jülich). The position is part of the Cluster of Excellence **PhenoRob – Robotics and Phenotyping for Sustainable Crop Production** (www.phenorob.de), and will contribute to Functional-Structural Plant Models. Preferred start of the position is March 2026 (or as soon as possible thereafter) and will be funded for a period of one plus three years. The doctoral researcher will work towards their doctoral degree at the University of Bonn.

Your tasks:

- Plan and conduct experiments (in field and greenhouse) to **link soil-root interactions with plant phenotype and resource use efficiency** to help inform the design of new cropping systems
- Take a proactive approach and strive to work increasingly independent in conducting your research
- Actively engage with a multidisciplinary research team
- Write and publish research articles in peer-reviewed journals
- Present research results at international conferences and workshops

Your profile:

- Master's degree in plant, soil, environmental systems, or agricultural sciences, ecology, or related fields
- Experience in conducting experimental work – from data collection and laboratory analyses to data analyses using statistical software environment R
- Excellent oral and written English language and communication skills
- Enthusiasm for advancing knowledge, open-mindedness, team spirit, and strong interpersonal skills
- Meticulous and motivated work attitude, aspiration to keep improving and extending own skill set
- Knowledge on and/or strong interest in phenotyping, plant physiology, soil biogeochemical cycling, isotope tracing, and/or mycorrhizal symbiosis are a plus.

We offer:

- Stimulating, international research environment
- Excellent network of multidisciplinary research partners
- Opportunity to conduct research towards a Ph.D. degree
- Support in personal career development
- Salary according to the German Federal pay scale (65% TV-L E13)

Please submit your application electronically, in **one combined PDF file** to Jun. Prof. Dr. Janina Dierks (sustaincrop@uni-bonn.de) by **November 15, 2025** (applications will be received until the position is filled). Make sure to specify the **email subject** as "**PhD application PhenoRob2**". Application documents must be written in English and include a motivation letter (max. 1 page), CV, transcript and certificate of Master's degree, title and abstract of Master's thesis, names and contact details of two reference persons. For further information regarding the position, please contact Jun. Prof. Janina Dierks via email, with subject as specified above.

The University of Bonn is committed to diversity and equal opportunity. It is certified as a family-friendly university and aims to increase the number of women employed in areas where women are under-represented and to promote their careers. To that end, it urges women with relevant qualifications to apply. Applications will be handled in accordance with the *Landesgleichstellungsgesetz* (State Equality Act). Applications from suitable candidates with a certified disability or equivalent status are particularly welcome.