



For a collaborative research project on *"Elucidating the role of phytoplankton in aquatic mercury biotic and abiotic transformations"* within the Lead agency cooperation between Switzerland and France, the group of the Environmental Biogeochemistry and Ecotoxicology, Department F.A. Forel for environmental and aquatic sciences, at the University of Geneva is searching for

## a PhD position in biogeochemistry of mercury

**The goal of the project** is to obtain new insight into the role of phytoplankton in Hg cycling and transformations in the surface water. Mercury is naturally present in the environment; however, the anthropogenic activities have disturbed Hg biogeochemical cycle. As a result, the concentrations of Hg compounds in the aquatic systems have significantly increased. Once entered into natural waters, Hg compounds interact with different biotic and abiotic components and undergo numerous abiotic and biotic transformations. Opposite to the substantial work performed with bacteria, the role of phytoplankton in Hg cycling and transformation has been barely investigated, although such a knowledge will be of utmost importance for the development of Hg mitigation strategies and environmental risk assessment in aquatic system. The work is experimentally oriented and will involve lab and field measurements. The project will be developed in an intense collaboration with the IPREM- CNRS-UPPA, France.

**We are looking** for independent and highly motivated candidates with a strong background and skills in environmental sciences, chemistry, biochemistry or biology, as well as a strong interest in scientific research and the aquatic environment. Good experimental skills in molecular techniques or stable isotopes could be an advantage. Master degree or equivalent is required. Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English is essential.

**The successful candidates** will benefit from working within a young, dynamic and multidisciplinary team of the Department F.A. Forel for environmental and aquatic science, Faculty of Sciences. **The position is expected to start 1st of February 2018.** The duration is 4 years.

**The successful candidates** will prepare a doctorate thesis in the field Environmental sciences, publish scientific articles related to the research project and participate in the teaching and organisation of the lab training for the Master of Environmental Science (MUSE). The salary will be in accordance with the University of Geneva regulations for academic personnel.

Interested applicants are requested to send in a **single PDF file** the CV (incl. publication list), academic transcripts, a statement of research interests and the contact information for 2 -3 potential references by email to **vera.slaveykova@unige.ch**. **Closing date is November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017** or until a qualified candidate is identified.

For further information about the Department F.A. Forel for environmental and aquatic sciences, Faculty of Sciences, University of Geneva please visit our website <http://www.unige.ch/forel/en/biogeochimie/>.