



INSTITUTE OF
EARTH SCIENCES



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
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The Coordination Office of SPP 2520 at the Institute of Earth Sciences, Heidelberg University, Germany, invites applications for

a scientific coordinator (postdoc) for three years (2026–2028)

The newly established Infrastructure Priority Program (SPP) 2520 'Research vessels' will start on January 2026. The scientific activities planned within the framework of SPP 2520 will address emerging questions and future challenges related to vessel-based research. Recognizing the role of marine sciences in providing essential knowledge across a wide range of research fields - and in forming the nucleus of the next generation of highly skilled marine scientists - this DFG Infrastructure Priority Program during its initial phase (2026–2031) will focus on the following five broad research themes that reflect the interdisciplinary nature of marine sciences:

- (1) Ocean in a changing climate
- (2) Ocean interfaces and biogeochemical cycles
- (3) Ocean-lithosphere dynamics
- (4) Ocean-biosphere interactions
- (5) Ocean-based new technologies and innovation

The SPP 2520 coordination office will be based at Heidelberg University. To support the scientific coordinator, the members of the program committee, and the SPP 2520 scientific community, the position of a scientific coordination assistant is advertised. For this position, we seek a highly experienced, motivated and creative scientist, who will support the program coordinator and effectively engage and communicate with the diverse scientific disciplines within SPP 2520 (e.g., Biology, Physics, Geosciences, Oceanography, Meteorology, among many others).

Tasks of the coordination assistant:

Main responsibilities of the coordination assistant in the framework of SPP 2520 will be

- (1) to support the coordinator in the manifold tasks that are required to run the SPP successfully,
- (2) to advise and inform scientists involved in the SPP,
- (3) to prepare reports and presentations that are connected with the requirements of running a SPP,
- (4) prepare and co-organize the annual coordination workshops together with the respective organizers at the workshop venue (including basic support of administrative tasks, catering, development of workshop agenda, etc.),
- (5) to establish, maintain, and develop the planned SPP-related homepage and literature database,

(6) to support the development/improvement of internal measures within the SPP,
(7) to monitor data storage of SPP-funded expeditions,
(8), to represent the SPP during public talks and in conferences and meetings, and
(9) to assist in the preparation of the continuation proposal for SPP 2520 after the first funding phase.

By overtaking the above-mentioned responsibilities, the proposed coordination assistant will be a central cornerstone to support the scientists involved in the SPP.

Requirements:

Requirements for this position are a PhD in the field of Geosciences or Biology or a closely related discipline and written and spoken fluency in English. The successful candidate should further have a strong scientific background in one of the main scientific areas of the SPP, ideally, but not necessarily, in a subject related to geochemistry or paleoclimatology. Furthermore, experience with vessel-based expeditions and/or the coordination of scientific projects is desirable but no requirement.

We offer:

We offer a three years full Postdoc position. Salary and social security benefits are according to a German civil service position (E13 TV-L).

The work will be based at the Institute of Earth Sciences in Heidelberg, Germany.

The position will be embedded in a lively and supportive working group.

Application process:

Applications (CV, cover letter including statement of coordination and research interests, and contact information of three referees familiar with the applicant's research) should be sent as a single pdf file to Prof. Dr. Oliver Friedrich (E-mail: oliver.friedrich@geow.uni-heidelberg.de). The closing date for applications is 10. November 2025 but applications are welcome until the positions is filled. The position will be available from January 2026 onwards.

For additional information please contact Prof. Dr. Oliver Friedrich, Sedimentology and Marine Paleoenvironmental Dynamics Group, Institute of Earth Sciences, Heidelberg University, Im Neuenheimer Feld 234, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany; E-mail: oliver.friedrich@geow.uni-heidelberg.de