



Changins, School of Viticulture and Oenology (HES-SO), is the Swiss and international center of reference for training and research in viticulture and oenology. For more than 75 years, Changins has trained professionals able to meet the societal, environmental and economic challenges of the sector, from the land to the glass.

The Viticulture and Agroecosystems sector focuses its teaching and research on the adaptation of vineyards to climate change, the development of alternatives to fungicides, the promotion of biodiversity, and the impact of viticultural practices on soil and the environment.

To strengthen our teams, we are recruiting a:

Scientific collaborator / Research Scientist

In soil biology and vineyard agroecosystems

2-year fixed term contract / 80%

You will contribute to research on the biological functioning of vineyard soils: microbial community composition and activity, enzymatic indicators of soil function, and the development and field evaluation of compost-based microbial inoculants. The work is carried out in collaboration with academic, institutional and private partners, and includes the design of multi-season field trials, laboratory analysis, data interpretation, scientific publication and communication of results to the profession.

Your missions

- Design, coordinate and monitor multi-season field trials on vineyard soils.
- Carry out soil biological analyses: DNA extraction and sequencing (16S/ITS), qPCR, extracellular enzyme activity assays for carbon- and phosphorus-cycling enzymes, and microbial biomass determination.
- Work at aggregate scale as well as on bulk soil, and account for the difference between the two.
- Link microbial community composition to measured enzyme activity and to carbon cycling in soil.
- Establish reference datasets across analytical methods and assess their comparability, reliability and limits of interpretation.
- Develop and characterize compost-based microbial consortia and evaluate their effect on soil biology under field conditions.
- Analyze and interpret experimental data; specify measurement uncertainty for use by modelling partners.
- Write scientific articles, technical publications and reports.
- Present results to the profession through technical days, field visits and specialized publications.
- Contribute to the preparation and submission of new research projects.

Desired profile

Education & Experience

- University degree in soil biology, microbial ecology, microbiology, agronomy or a related field; a doctorate (completed, or in the final stage of completion) is an asset.
- Several years of research experience in soil microbiology, soil ecology or related experimental soil research, with peer-reviewed publications and international conference presentations.
- Full laboratory autonomy: DNA extraction, PCR, qPCR, next-generation sequencing and the associated bioinformatic pipeline, without dedicated technical support.



- Experience investigating microbial abundance, community composition and biological activity across spatial scales, from individual soil aggregates or other microscale compartments to bulk soil.
- Experience with enzyme kinetics modelling including the estimation and interpretation of kinetic parameters.
- Demonstrated experience linking microbial community composition to independently measured soil functions and environmental drivers.
- Skills in statistical analysis and processing of multivariate ecological datasets, ideally with R, QIIME 2 and Linux.
- Experience with complementary microbial biomass or community indicators, such as PLFA analysis, is an asset.
- Experience critically comparing analytical methods or experimental scales and assessing their comparability, uncertainty and limits of interpretation.

Skills & Qualities

- Good knowledge of soil science and soil ecology.
- Ability to reason about soil as an energy-driven system, and to translate microbiome and enzymatic datasets into interpretable indicators of soil function.
- Familiarity with complex-systems frameworks such as active inference, the free energy principle, autocatalytic sets and polycomputing, and an interest in applying these concepts to self-organization and multiscale function in microbial communities, is an asset.
- Comfortable working both in the field and in the laboratory.
- Ability to work with modelling partners and to discuss probabilistic approaches to soil data.
- Experience communicating results to both scientific and non-technical audiences.
- Fluent English (working language of the sector's international collaborations). French an asset (primary language of communication within Changins)
- Sense of organization and scientific rigor.
- Open, autonomous personality, able to integrate into a group.

What we offer

- An exceptional working environment in Nyon, between Lake Geneva and the vineyards.
- Access to a network of professional and academic partners to support your scientific development.
- The opportunity to contribute within a human-scale institution, recognized nationally and internationally.

Practical Information

Start	1 st February 2027 or to be agreed (for a duration of 2 years)
Activity rate	80 %
Place of work	Route de Duillier 52, CH – 1260 Nyon
Deadline for application	22th September 2026

To apply or for any questions about the recruiting process, please contact **Mrs Florence Choffat**, HR Manager : florence.choffat@changins.ch

For questions on the position, **Dr Markus Rienth**, Professor and Head of the Viticulture and Agroecosystems sector: markus.rienth@changins.ch