

# Tree resilience with root-associated microbes: protecting trees from the ground up

Institute of Biology Leiden, Above-Belowground interactions group 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

This project is centered around finding and characterizing root-associated microbes that can help protect trees against stressors. When we are planting trees on agricultural land, they face numerous challenges before they become a flourishing forest. That's where the microbes come in. By forming symbiotic relationships with trees, microbes can help protect against all sorts of stressors ensuring tree health and resilience.



With a focus on mitigating the effects of all sorts of stressors, such as heat and drought stress, we are diving into the world of microbe-tree interactions. This project is multidisciplinary in which we blend microbiology, ecology and arboriculture. We hope to identify and cultivate microbes that help trees protect against stressors and help trees recover from stressors. In doing so, we gain invaluable insight into the above- and belowground interactions that shape our forests.

At the moment we have a bunch of microbes to work with. Internships topic are flexible and we can discuss options. Starting dates for:

- **BSc starting from February/March 2025**
- **MSc starting from March/April 2025 (starting month flexible)**

Are you the master or bachelor student we are looking for? This is your chance to contribute to the future resilience of our trees.

Level: **bachelor or master**

For inquiries and applications, please contact **Annemiek van Dijke**

[a.c.p.van.dijke@biology.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:a.c.p.van.dijke@biology.leidenuniv.nl)

More information on the website: <https://www.above-belowgroundinteractions.com/>

