



PhD position in Ecology – Biotic interaction networks in a rapidly warming Arctic, Uppsala

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Department of Ecology

At the Ecology Centre of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), in Uppsala, Sweden, we conduct research on populations, communities and ecosystems. We generate knowledge on how land use and climate affects animals, plants, nutrient cycling and greenhouse gas balance, and develop sustainable solutions for the future. Active outreach and frequent dialogue with stakeholders are key activities.

Biotic interactions in a rapidly warming Arctic

Description:

Rapid climate change across the Arctic affects interactions among species, and ecosystem functions driven by these interactions. We use both time series and space-for-time substitution approaches to expose climatic impacts on species interaction structure and on functioning. As focal interactions we use plant–pollinator, plant–fungus and plant–bacteria networks. Among ecosystem functions, we focus on the transport of pollen; the type of association (positive or negative); and plant biomass.

The PhD-student will apply versatile tools to reconstruct Arctic interaction networks. The project combines time series analysis, detailed studies within a region in Northeast Greenland and large-scale surveys across the Arctic, in collaboration with tens of research stations. Overall, data analysis and lab work will dominate over field work in this PhD project, although obtaining hands-on experience with some of the Arctic focal sites will be required.

The successful candidate will enter a research team (www.slu.se/en/cv/tomas-roslin; www.slu.se/en/ew-cv/rene-van-der-wal/ and internt.slu.se/en/cv-originals/mohammad-bahram/) with thorough experience on Arctic ecology, set in a strong international network of researchers on climate and Arctic biodiversity. Much of our work is based on using molecular tools to describe communities and ecological interaction networks. By the end of the project, the candidate will have gained extensive experience in high-throughput molecular and advanced statistical methods

Qualifications:

We seek a highly motivated candidate with a strong interest in community ecology, and who is actively pursuing an academic career. The right candidate has a solid interest in ecological interaction networks and holds good numerical skills. To qualify, you need an MSc degree, equivalent to at least 240 higher education credits in ecology, biology or similar fields, and proficiency in written and oral English. Experience with molecular lab methods, bioinformatics and statistical analysis are advantages. You should be able to take initiative and to work independently as well as in a team.

The selection will be based on the candidates' past performance and recommendations, ability to collaborate, as well as creativity, initiative, and independence. Particular emphasis will be placed on your written motivation, which should outline your research interests and expectations for the project, and describe what makes you a suitable candidate for pursuing a PhD program in general and this position in particular.

Place of work:

Uppsala, Sweden.

Forms for employment:

Fixed-time employment (4 years) full time (100 %).

Starting date:

By agreement.

Application:

We welcome your application no later than 15 January 2020.

Applications must be written in English and contain (i) a statement of scientific interests and motivation for applying to this position (max 8000 characters including spaces), (ii) Curriculum Vitae, (iii) contact information to at least two reference persons, and (iv) certified copies of previous university degrees.

A person has basic eligibility for third cycle education if he or she has taken a second cycle qualification or has completed course requirements of at least 240 higher education credits, including at least 60 higher education credits at second cycle education. Upper secondary school grades equivalent to English B/English 6 are a basic requirement.

Selection among applicants meeting the requirements is made with reference to written application including curriculum vitae, copies of degrees and transcripts of academic records, one copy of the dissertation for masters or undergraduate degree, a list of at least two references familiar with the applicant's qualifications, certified knowledge of the English language and an interview.

Please observe that applicant/s chosen to participate in an interview shall hand in certified true copies of certificates, diplomas and transcripts from previous studies at an internationally recognized higher education institution (university or university college) and transcripts in connection to the interview. If the applicant is a foreign citizen we require a certified copy of the page in your passport with your personal data and photography.

Read more about PhD education at SLU at www.slu.se/en/education/postgraduate-studies/

Academic union representatives:

<https://internt.slu.se/min-anstallning/facket/kontaktpersoner/>

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) develops the understanding and sustainable use and management of biological natural resources. The university ranks well internationally within its subject areas. SLU is a research-intensive university that also offers unique degree programmes in for example rural development and natural resource management, environmental economics, animal science and landscape architecture.

SLU has just over 3,000 employees, 5,000 students and a turnover of SEK 3 billion. The university has invested heavily in a modern, attractive environment on its campuses in Alnarp, Umeå and Uppsala.

www.slu.se

SLU is an equal opportunity employer.

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