PhD student in Ecology with a focus on Host Use in Parasitoids

Ref. No. SU FV-0186-17


At the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences at Stockholm University research and education are conducted in an international environment. The subject areas include marine and plant ecology, ecotoxicology, plant physiology and plant systematics. Some of the research has direct environmental and societal relevance and approaches are often broad and interdisciplinary. About 140 people are working at the department, among which 35 are teachers or senior researchers, and ca. 50 are PhD students.

Project description
The position will be associated with the project ‘The ecology and evolution of indirect interactions in host-parasitoid systems’, that is a multi-disciplinary project involving a research group with experience in Ecology, Behavioural Ecology and Population Genomics of host-parasitoid systems. The overall aim of the project is to understand the coevolution, and speciation process, of host-parasitoid systems in a geographic context, focusing both on evolution of resistance-virulence characters and on parasitoid host use. The studies are performed in a well-studied model system involving a set of closely related leaf beetle species and their parasitoid. The specific aim of the PhD position is to explore the evolutionary mechanisms underlying geographic variation in host selection by parasitoids, the role of learning in parasitoid and the consequences of variation in host use on host-parasitoid population dynamics. The studies will involve collaborations with another PhD student working with the evolution of parasitoid virulence, and the main task includes behavioural experiments in the laboratory, but the work may also involve field experiments and population modelling.

Qualification requirements
In order to meet the general entry requirements, the applicant must have completed a second-cycle degree, completed courses equivalent to at least 240 higher education credits, of which 60 credits must be in the second cycle, or have otherwise acquired equivalent knowledge in Sweden or elsewhere.

In order to meet the specific entry requirements, the general syllabus for doctoral studies in the field stipulates that applicants must have completed at least 60 higher education credits in the second cycle, of which 15 credits must be from a course in ecology and 30 credits from a project in ecology, or have otherwise acquired equivalent knowledge in Sweden or elsewhere.

Only a person who will be or has already been admitted to a third-cycle program may be appointed to a doctoral studentship. The primary assessment criteria in appointing a doctoral student should be the capacity to benefit from the training.

Selection
The selection among the eligible candidates will be based on their capacity to benefit from the training. The following criteria will be used to assess this capacity:

- the candidates’ documented knowledge in a relevant field of research,
- written and oral proficiency in English, the capacity for analytical thinking,
- the ability to collaborate,
- as well as creativity, initiative and independence.

The assessment will be based on previous experience and grades, the quality of the degree project, references, relevant experience, interviews, and the candidate’s written motivation for seeking the position.

Admission Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University are available at: www.regelboken.su.se.

Terms of employment
The term of the initial contract may not exceed one year. The employment may be extended for a maximum of two years at a time. However, the total period of employment may not exceed the equivalent of four years of full-time study.

Doctoral students should primarily devote themselves to their own education, but may engage in teaching, research, and administration corresponding to a maximum of 20 % of a full-time position.
Please note that admission decisions cannot be appealed.

Stockholm University strives to be a workplace free from discrimination and with equal opportunities for all.

**Contact**
For more information, please contact Professor Peter Hambäck: +46 730 76 51 26, peter.hamback@su.se.

**Union representatives**
Anqi Lindblom-Ahlm (Saco-S) and Lisbeth Häggberg (Fackförbundet ST and Lärarförbundet), telephone: +46 8 16 20 00 (operator), seko@seko.su.se (SEKO), and PhD student representative, doktorandombud@sus.su.se.

**Application**
Apply for the position at Stockholm University's recruitment system by clicking the "Apply" button. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete in accordance with the instructions in the job advertisement, and that it is submitted before the deadline. We recommend that you hand in your application, including necessary documents, in English.

Please include the following information with your application

- Your contact details and personal data
- Your highest degree
- Your language skills
- Contact details for 2–3 references

and, in addition, please include the following documents

- Cover letter (2–3 pages), including
  - why you are interested in the field/project described in the advertisement
  - why and how you wish to complete the project
  - what makes you suitable for the project in question
- CV – degrees and other completed courses, work experience and a list of degree projects/theses
- Degree certificates and grades confirming that you meet the general and specific entry requirements (no more than 6 files)
- Degree projects/theses (no more than 3 files).

The instructions for applicants are available at: Instructions – Applicants.

**You are welcome to apply!**

*Stockholms universitet – hos oss ger utbildning och forskning resultat.*

**Closing date:** 03/03/2017

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