PhD student in Sustainability Science

Ref. No. SU FV-0110-17

Apply at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. Closing date: 1 Mars 2017.

The mission of the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) is to advance research for biosphere stewardship and innovation. Research at the SRC applies a social-ecological systems perspective and resilience thinking to generate knowledge and understanding to enable social-ecological transformations towards sustainable futures. Research is advanced through transdisciplinary collaboration with international leading researchers, research environments worldwide, and environmental actors.

The SRC aims to foster new generations of researchers and academic leaders through our Resilience Research School. The school equips students with a theoretical and practical foundation in Sustainability Science with a focus on resilience in social-ecological systems. Students are encouraged to develop new approaches that integrate methods and concepts from the social, natural and applied sciences. Emphasis is placed on developing student ability to define a problem, develop research methods, and communicate research findings within international scientific and science-policy discussions.

Project description
We are seeking a self-motivated and ambitious PhD student to study multi-actor collaboration in water governance, with a specific focus on if and how collaboration leads to better ecological status.

The project’s take-off point is that traditional top-down government approaches struggle to effectively manage and preserve ecosystems. Governance arrangements that foster multi-actor collaboration across scales and jurisdictions are commonly put forward as a better solution. A growing literature suggests that the effectiveness of such collaborative arrangements depends on how well patterns of actor collaboration actually fit and align with the boundary-spanning characteristics of the ecosystems they are set to manage. However, progress in developing these insights further has been hampered by the lack of empirical assessments of environmental outcomes, and as a consequence of the lack of discipline-spanning frameworks for facilitating empirically grounded interdisciplinary theory development.

This project will address this gap by developing a theoretical and methodological framework, and by empirically addressing three research questions:

1. what social- and environmental factors drive actors’ selection of collaborative partners in collaborative arrangements,
2. what kind of activities are stimulated by collaborative arrangement, and
3. what are the environmental outcomes, at different scales, of collaborative arrangements.

Empirically, the project focuses on watershed management in and around lake Mälaren, and the water council ‘Mälarens vattenvårdsförbund’, which provides a venue for many key actors to collaborate.

The student will make use of already existing ecological and biochemical data, but will collect new social data on the collaborations (who are the actors, whom are collaborating, what is the nature of the collaboration, how collaboration is perceived etc.). Analyses of social and ecological data will be done in collaboration with other project members, and will be based partly on quantitative network modelling, partly on qualitative analyses of interviews and documents.

As part of the inter-disciplinary environment of Stockholm’s Resilience Centre, the student will collaborate with and benefit from other students and researchers with transdisciplinary research interests, and thereby develop the skills and perspectives needed for working in transdisciplinary projects. Although the position requires knowledge and skills in ecology, the student should also be prepared and motivated to explore different areas within the social sciences.

Qualification requirements
To be admitted as a PhD student at the Stockholm Resilience Centre one must be eligible to be admitted to a PhD Programme in Natural Science at Stockholm University. 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.
Specific entry requirements for admission to postgraduate studies in Sustainability Science are that the applicant has a total of at least 30 credits, or equivalent, at advanced level in Natural Science, Civil or Environmental Engineering, Physical Geography, Sustainability Science or Environmental Studies as well as a thesis of at least 30 credits at advanced level in any of these areas.

Since all respondents speak Swedish, and all data will be in Swedish, the student needs to be proficient in Swedish.

Only a person who will be or has already been admitted to a third-cycle programme 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 all/some of the following:

- Relevant knowledge for the research tasks
- Analytical ability as demonstrated by a scientific report, paper or degree project thesis.
- Knowledge of quantitative data analysis, preferably including network analysis
- Experience of interviews and qualitative data analysis
- Knowledge of Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Willingness and ability to work as part of a transdisciplinary team
- The applicant's personal references.

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 about the Resilience Research School or sustainability science at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, please contact Head of Subject, Prof. Garry Peterson, telephone: +46 73 707 85 92, garry.peterson@su.se. For more information on the PhD research, please contact the supervisor Örjan Bodin, telephone: +46 8 674 76 71, orjan.bodin@stockholmresilience.su.se.

Union representatives
Anqi Lindblom-Ahlm (Saco-S) and Lisbeth Häggberg (Fackförbundet SF and Lärarförbundet), telephone +46 (0)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.

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
- CV – degrees and other completed courses, work experience and a list of degree projects/theses/publications
Research proposal (no more than 1 page) describing:
– why you are interested in the field/project described in the advertisement
– what makes you suitable for the project in question

Degree certificates and grades confirming that you meet the general and specific entry requirements (no more than 6 files)

Letters of recommendation (no more than 3 files)

Include electronic copies of 3 most relevant works (degree projects or published articles) (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: 01/03/2017

URL to this page: http://www.su.se/english/about/vacancies/vacancies-new-list?rmpage=job&rmjob=2605&rmlang=UK

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