



PhD in Marine Sciences specializing in cold-water coral reproductive ecology

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The University of Gothenburg tackles society's challenges with diverse knowledge. 56 000 students and 6 600 employees make the university a large and inspiring place to work and study. Strong research and attractive study programmes attract scientists and students from around the world. With new knowledge and new perspectives, the University contributes to a better future.

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Type of employment: Fixed-term employment, 4 years

Extent: 100 %

Location: Tjärnö Marine Laboratory, Department of Marine Sciences, University of Gothenburg

The Department of Marine Sciences at the Faculty of Science, University of Gothenburg, was recently launched (July 1, 2015) with the purpose to achieve the vision of "A University with marine research, teaching and cooperation of the highest international class" (<https://www.gu.se/en/marina-vetenskaper>). The department has about 110 employees - researchers, teachers, PhD students, technicians and administrators. The department carries out teaching and research in the various marine specializations, biology, oceanography, chemistry, marine geology, conservation of underwater cultural heritage, and environmental science. The Department is situated in Gothenburg and at the University's research stations at Tjärnö and Kristineberg. This position will be based at the Tjärnö Marine Laboratory, 170 km from Gothenburg (<https://www.gu.se/en/tjarno>).

More information on the Department can be found at www.marine.gu.se

Project Description

Cold-water corals are found globally, at depths of just a few meters in temperate and polar ecosystems, to well beyond the photic zone and into the abyssal plains of every ocean. These cold-water coral reefs are fundamental habitat builders in deep ocean environments across the globe. They provide important ecosystem services, creating hotspots of biodiversity that have vital effects beyond the deep ocean and into our shallow seas. Early life history determines survivorship, dispersal and ultimately recruitment within, and between populations, and yet this vital piece of the puzzle is incomplete for any deep-sea coral to date. As biophysical models become more sophisticated, data is desperately needed on how to ascertain if populations that otherwise appears healthy are likely to fertilize and thus produce potential offspring into the environment. In addition, impending climate changes are likely to affect the ecology of all oceanic organisms and understanding impacts on the fundamental and fragile processes of fertilization and larval survivorship in these critical deep species is of paramount importance to understanding our future ocean environment.

This Ph.D. project has some flexibility to tailor to the applicants major interests within reproductive ecology in cold water corals and had the potential to include collaborations and work off of

Sweden's coast with the reef building coral *Lophelia pertusa*, off of Patagonia with the deep water emerged coral *Desmophyllum dianthus*, and/or cataloging reproductive processes of New Zealand's protected *Primnoa* spp. corals. As such, this Ph.D. project will work collaboratively with other cold-water coral researchers at the Tjärnö Marine Laboratory, as well as potentially international partners. This project will likely require travel and field work, spending time each year at sea on research vessels collecting samples in potentially harsh conditions.

Eligibility

Admission to postgraduate education requires basic and, where applicable, special qualifications. The person who has the basic qualifications for postgraduate education has:

1. graduated at advanced level, or
2. completed course requirements of at least 240 higher education credits, of which at least 60 higher education credits at advanced level, or 3. acquired acquired knowledge in another way within or outside the country.

Qualification requirements and meriting skills

The successful applicant will be self-motivated, solution oriented, curious and able to collaborate within the larger coral research team and with international partners. They must have excellent written and oral English. Applicants must have a masters level education or relevant experience. Experience with histological processing and/or larval ecology, particularly in scleractinians and octocorals, would increase the merit of an application, as would experience within deep sea ecosystems and on research vessels. Interest in becoming a scientific diver for this project would also be a merit. Applicant must have excellent fine motor skills and patience for working with small scale biological material.

Assessment

After admission to postgraduate education, you will be employed as a doctoral student. Provisions for employment as a doctoral student can be found in ordinance SFS 1993: 100. The first employment as a doctoral student may be valid for a maximum of one year. The employment may be renewed for a maximum of two years at a time. A person may be employed as a doctoral student for a total of a maximum of eight years. However, the total period of employment may not be longer than the equivalent of full-time postgraduate education for four years.

The university applies local agreements on salary setting for doctoral students.

Appointment Procedure

Please apply online.

The following should be included in your application:

- A short cover letter in English describing the applicant's motivation for the position, how the applicant meets the selection criteria, and how the application is well suited for the proposed work (max 2 pages).
- Curriculum vitae
 - List out publications including accepted masters theses
- Examination certificates and transcript of courses with grades.
- Contact information (phone, email, relation) of two personal references

The highest ranked applicants will be contacted for interviews.

You apply to be admitted to doctoral studies via the University of Gothenburg's recruitment portal. You as the applicant are responsible for ensuring that the application is complete in accordance with the advertisement and that it is received by the university no later than the last day for application.

The application must be received no later than: 2022-03-20

For further information please contact

Dr. Rhian Waller (main supervisor)

Senior Lecturer

Email: Rhian.waller@gu.se

The university works actively for a work environment with equal conditions and values the qualities that diversity brings to the business.

According to the National Archives' regulations, the university is obliged to keep application documents for two years after the appointment decision. If you, as an applicant for a job, specifically request your documents back, they will be returned when the two years have elapsed, otherwise they will be thinned out.

For staffing and recruitment companies and for you who are a salesperson: The University of Gothenburg hires a procured advertising agency in connection with the recruitment of staff. We kindly but firmly avoid direct contact with staffing and recruitment companies as well as sellers of job advertisements.

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Salaries are set individually at the University.

In accordance with the National Archives of Sweden's regulations, the University must archive application documents for two years after the appointment is filled. If you request that your documents are returned, they will be returned to you once the two years have passed. Otherwise, they will be destroyed.

In connection to this recruitment, we have already decided which recruitment channels we should use. We therefore decline further contact with vendors, recruitment and staffing companies.

Apply