



## PhD position in Ecology – Microclimatic impacts on Arctic biodiversity Uppsala

Ref 2019.2.5.1-2341

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### Department of Ecology

The position is based at the Ecology Centre at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), in Uppsala, Sweden, where 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, seeking solutions to mitigate climate change, preserve threatened species, benefit biological diversity and ecosystem services in managed landscapes. Active outreach and frequent dialogue with stakeholders are key activities. To generate cutting-edge research and to promote sustainable natural resource management, we build on extensive national and international research collaborations.

### *Microclimatic impacts on Arctic biodiversity*

#### **Description:**

Over the next few decades, the climate of the Arctic is predicted to change faster than for any other biome. Thus, we need to explore how arctic landscapes are currently warming, and how species distributions are likely to shift with a changing climate. We study the impact of anthropogenic warming on microclimatic conditions within Arctic landscapes, and dissect the consequences for the most diverse component of Arctic biodiversity, the arthropods. We then use this new understanding to develop scenarios of future ecosystem change.

The PhD-student will engage in extensive, field-based sampling combined with molecular tools to generate high-quality data on the distribution of Arctic species, and microclimatic modelling to generate high-quality data on the Arctic microclimate. The project aims at mapping current Arctic climatic variation at multiple scales, at establishing the relationship between current microclimate and biodiversity, at projecting future changes in microclimatic conditions, and at determining how the latter will affect future biodiversity distribution at multiple spatial levels.

The successful candidate will enter a research team with thorough experience on arctic ecology in general and arctic arthropods in particular ([www.slu.se/en/cv/tomas-roslin](http://www.slu.se/en/cv/tomas-roslin)), set in a strong international network of researchers on climate and arctic biodiversity. Much of our work is based on using molecular tools to describing arthropod communities and ecological interaction networks.

#### **Qualifications:**

We are looking for a highly motivated candidate with a strong interest in community ecology, and

who is actively pursuing an academic career in ecology. The right candidate has a solid interest in ecology, holds good numerical skills, and wants to apply these skills to explore real world problems. To qualify you need an MSc degree, equivalent to at least 240 higher education credits in ecology, biology, environmental sciences, geophysical sciences or similar fields. Written and oral proficiency in English is required. Meriting, but not required, are skills in empirical ecology, as is experience with data generated by DNA barcoding and with statistical analysis. The candidate is expected to be capable and willing to take initiative and work independently as well as in a team. Extensive and sometimes demanding field periods away from home, and a working visit to the University of Exeter, UK, are to be expected.

The selection among the eligible applicants will be based on their past performance and recommendations, their ability to collaborate, as well as their 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 motivated and suitable candidate for pursuing a PhD program in general and for this position in particular.

**Place of work:**

Uppsala, Sweden.

**Forms for funding or employment:**

Fixed-time employment (4 years)

**Starting date:**

By agreement.

**Application:**

We welcome your application no later than 30 June 2019. Use the button below.

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 including a complete publication list, (iii) contact information to at least two reference persons, and (iv) certified copies of previous university degrees and transcripts of completed courses.

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.

Please observe that applicant/s called for 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/](http://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](http://www.slu.se)

SLU is an equal opportunity employer.

**Contact person:**

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