PhD student in Animal Ecology Stockholm
Ref. No. SU FV-1144-20

Apply at the Department of Zoology. Closing date: 23 April 2020.

The Department of Zoology is a vibrant international community, consisting of five interactive and collaborative divisions: Ecology, Ethology, Functional Morphology, Population Genetics, and Systematics and Evolution. The advertised PhD will be part of the Division of Ecology.

Project description
A PhD position focused on the evolution of butterfly-plant associations is available in Professor Sören Nylin’s group in the Department of Zoology, Stockholm University. Professor Niklas Janz will be co-supervisor. This is an international call.

The thesis work will be performed as part of Nylin’s project “Evolving modularity in the adaptations of phytophagous insects to their host plants”, newly funded by the Swedish Research Council. The project aims to improve our understanding of the causal mechanisms behind the evolutionary patterns observed in insect-plant associations, and is based on the idea that adaptations to specific host plants can best be understood as “modules” of co-expressed genes and the corresponding phenotypes – in particular larval performance on different hosts.

Work in the PhD project will focus on butterflies, and will involve field collection and laboratory rearing of insects, including short-term selection experiments, as well as genomic analysis of in particular RNA-sequencing data. It is strongly recommended that you read relevant literature and tailor your cover letter and application accordingly. Start date is flexible but sooner is preferred over later.

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 of Animal Ecology stipulates that applicants must have completed a research degree (e.g. Master’s), or have passed at least 120 hp (2 years) of biological studies, including an approved independent project of at least 30 hp at advanced level (“examensarbete”) within animal ecology (preferably evolutionary ecology) or a similar subject fitting the project such as evolutionary biology or molecular genetics/bioinformatics. Applicants who have in principle acquired the corresponding competence in Sweden, or abroad, are also qualified.

For UK education systems, general and specific entry requirements are typically equivalent to an MBiolSci or equivalent (4 year undergraduate degree with the last year having at least half the credits associated with a research project and associated write up) or an MSc.

For US education systems, this is typically the equivalent of an MSc, although you may be eligible to start before you defend your masters.

If you are uncertain about whether your qualifications met the entry requirements, you should still apply and we will determine whether you are eligible.

The qualification requirements must be met by the deadline for applications.

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: documented experience within the research field, ideally with experience from rearing and genomics of non-model organisms; fluency in English; analytical thinking; creativity; initiative; independence; ability to collaborate. The experience of the applicant will be judged based on application, the quality of earlier studies, personal references and the applicant’s personal letter.
The graduate program covers four years of full-time study. The position can be combined with teaching (maximum 20%), which prolongs the employment with the corresponding time. The successful candidate will receive salary and full social benefits according to local agreements.

Admission Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University are available at: www.su.se/rules and regulations.

Terms of employment
Only a person who will be or has already been admitted to a third-cycle programme may be appointed to a doctoral studentship.

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 Sören Nylin, soren.nylin@zoologi.su.se.

Union representatives
Ingrid Lander (Saco-S), telephone: +46 708 16 26 64, saco@saco.su.se, Alejandra Pizarro Carrasco (Fackförbundet ST/Lärarförbundet), telephone: +46 8 16 34 89, alejandra@st.su.se, seko@seko.su.se (SEKO), and PhD student representative, doktorandombud@sus.su.se.

Application
Apply for the PhD student position at Stockholm University's recruitment system. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete in accordance with the instructions in the 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 including information on:
  – why you are interested in the field/project described in the advertisement
  – 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 6 files).

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

You are welcome to apply!

Stockholm University contributes to the development of sustainable democratic society through knowledge, enlightenment and the pursuit of truth.

Closing date: 23/04/2020

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