PhD position in ecology

Institutionen för ekologi, miljö och geovetenskap

Apply before 2020-07-01

- Temporary position longer than 6 months
  - 100%
  - Umeå

The Department of Ecology and Environmental Science (EMG), Umeå University, Sweden invites applicants for a PhD position in “Does reindeer increase the growth of trees?” to perform inventories of reindeer exclosures in Sweden and Finland and analyse forest growth, structure and function. The starting date for the position is 1 September 2020. Application deadline is July 1st, 2020.

**Project description and working tasks**

Although a large fraction of the boreal forest is grazed by reindeer, our knowledge of how they influence forest tree growth is limited. Preliminary studies indicate a strong positive effect of reindeer on tree growth. If these effects are representative for the whole boreal forest, reindeer are supplying a massive ecosystem service for the forestry, and forest owners and reindeer herders should collaborate to develop management methods that maximize forest production and enable sustainable grazing regimes. The aim of this project is thus to: 1. investigate how the effect of reindeer on tree growth varies across forest structures and grazing regimes, 2. investigate the mechanisms through which reindeer influence tree growth, and 3. communicate these results to end users.

The PhD student is expected to conduct fieldwork, chemical analyses, analyse data and write scientific papers within the subject of the project presented above. The position is full time for four years and placed at Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Umeå University. The work will be carried out in collaboration with LUKE, Rovaniemi and Oulu University.

**Qualifications**

The successful candidate is highly motivated, analytical, and have experience in field work, data analyses and scientific writing. To be eligible for this position you should have a Master of science degree, or a foreign degree that is deemed equivalent and a completed MSc research project in plant ecology, soil ecology, botany, forestry or a similar field is required.
The successful applicant should further have documented good abilities to communicate (scientifically) in English, both orally and written, as well as creativity, power of initiative, independence and good ability to collaborate. Strong merits are demonstrated experience with field work, plant species identification, plant and soil chemical analyses and statistics.

To be admitted for studies at third-cycle level the applicant is required to have completed a second cycle level degree, or completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits are at second-cycle level, or have an equivalent education from abroad, or equivalent qualifications, and have completed courses within a first-cycle subject relevant to ecology comprising at least 120 credits. At least one course at second-cycle level in a subject that is central to the doctoral student's planned specialisation shall have been completed, as well as an independent piece of work (degree project) with relevant specialisation of at least 15 credits.

We offer
The department of EMG has about 150 employees, of whom about 30 are PhDs’. Further, we offer a supportive workplace with good employee benefits; https://www.umu.se/en/work-with-us/benefits and an international staff support that can help you relocate; https://www.aurora.umu.se/en/new-staff/international-staff-support/

The employment is expected to result in a doctoral degree and the main assignment for the student is thus to be part of the research education, which includes participation in research but also taking relevant courses. Teaching and other departmental activities (up to a maximum of 20% time) are typically included as well. Employment is limited to four years at full time or up to five years if teaching and other departmental work is performed. The salary is fixed according to the established salary level for doctoral students.

Application
A full application, written in Swedish or English, should include:

- A personal letter including a short summary of previous research experience, and your vision and ideas for the project (max 2 pages).
- CV including list of publications, if applicable
- Copy of degree certificate and other relevant certificates
- Contact information of three references

You apply through our recruitment system on July 1st, 2020 at the latest. The documents should be in MS Word or PDF.

Contact
If you have questions regarding this position, please contact Johan Olofsson: johan.olofsson@umu.se

Admission
2020-09-01

Contact
Johan Olofsson, universitetslektor
090-786 77 04

Registration number
AN 2.2.1-732-20

Salary

Monthly salary

Union representative

SACO
090-786 53 65
SEKO
090-786 52 96
ST
090-786 54 31

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Umeå University wants to offer an equal environment where open dialogue between people with different backgrounds and perspectives lay the foundation for learning, creativity and development. We welcome people with different backgrounds and experiences to apply for the current employment. We kindly decline offers of recruitment and advertising help.