PhD student, Biology

Ref 2020.2.5.1-2459

Department of Ecology
The Department of Ecology conducts internationally strong empirical and theoretical research and education aimed towards sustainable forestry, agriculture and biodiversity conservation. We generate knowledge on how land use and climate affects animals, plants, nutrient cycling and greenhouse gas balance. Solutions are sought to mitigate climate change, preserve threatened species, benefit biological diversity and ecosystem services and control pest organisms in both forest and agricultural landscapes and in urban environments. See also: https://www.slu.se/en/departments/ecology/

PhD student in Biology: Management of infrastructure habitats to promote biodiversity

Description:
Are you searching for a PhD project where you, based on thorough ecological understanding, will develop recommendations for biodiversity conservation?

To halt the ongoing biodiversity crisis, actions beyond the traditional focus of biodiversity conservation is required. Road verges cover vast areas, and have been put forward as potential replacement habitat for plant and insect species suffering from the loss of semi-natural grasslands. Ongoing initiatives aim to manage these habitats to promote biodiversity, but it is unclear if these efforts have the intended effects. In this project, you will examine to what extent biodiversity-targeted management of infrastructure habitats can contribute to halting the loss of grassland biodiversity.

You will analyze existing biodiversity data and current and historical land use to determine to what extent biodiversity depends on current management or on land use history. You will set up a field experiment to evaluate whether biodiversity-targeted management of road verges benefits pollinating insects, or if there is a risk that flower-rich road verges become an ecological trap. Finally, you will quantify if species-rich road verges contribute to pollination services in the surrounding landscape. The project will be conducted in collaboration with e.g. the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) and with a parallel project at Lund University. International collaborations and student exchanges are commonplace in our team and the studies can include a stay with a research team abroad

Qualifications:
Applicants should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in biology or environmental science with specialization in ecology, and should have a strong interest in both theoretical and applied ecology. Advanced level courses in population or community ecology,
conservation biology and landscape ecology are considered a merit, as is experience from field work with insects and plants. Skills in planning, executing, and reporting scientific studies, as well as experience with statistical analyses and GIS are meriting. The applicant should have the ability to work both independently and in a team. Proven ability to communicate excellently in written and spoken English is essential. Since the field work will take place in Skåne, south Sweden, the applicant needs to be prepared to spend time away from home. A driving license is required.

Placement:
Uppsala

Form of employment:
Employment as PhD student 4 years

Starting date:
By agreement, but not later than 1 December 2020.

Application
We welcome your application no later than 7 August 2020, use the button below.

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.

Selection among applicants meeting the requirements is made with reference to written application including curriculum vitae, copies of degrees and transcripts of academic records, one copy of the dissertation for masters or undergraduate degree, a list of at least two references familiar with the applicant’s qualifications, certified knowledge of the English language and an interview.

Please observe that applicant/s chosen to participate in 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 about the PhD education at SLU at www.slu.se/en/education/programmes-courses/phd-studies/

Academic union representatives:

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

SLU is an equal opportunity employer.

Contact person

Erik Öckinger
Erik.Ockinger@slu.se

URL to this page: https://www.slu.se/en/about-slu/work-at-slu/jobs-vacancies/?rmpage=job&rmjob=3848&rmlang=UK

Apply