PhD student in museomics

Ref. No. SU FV-3079-20

at the Department of Zoology. Closing date: 30 September 2020.

The Department of Zoology is one of the departments at the Faculty of Science with about 50 employees and 40 students. The main research areas are Ecology, Ethology, Functional Morphology, Population Genetics, and Systematics and Evolution. This PhD position will be located at the Department of Bioinformatic and Genetics at the Swedish Museum of Natural History.

**Project description**

The objective of this project is to study the evolutionary mechanisms that lead to incipient diversification and species persistence using genomic data. The project focuses on avian species complexes from New Guinea; honeyeaters and birds-of-paradise. In these study groups there are examples of sister taxa that hybridize in certain part of their ranges but not in others and species boundaries could be contested since birds in regions where sister taxa meet exhibit various degrees of intermediate characters. These avian systems are ideal to study genetic mechanisms that may impede hybridization, applying species delimitation methods on a genomic scale and link hybridization patterns with environmental change over time.

The genomic data will be generated largely from museum samples and the project is thus a good opportunity to showcase how museum genomics and organismal biology can be used to study hybridization and species delimitation in taxonomically challenging groups.

The project is part on an ongoing project on evolutionary genomics in birds-of-paradise led by the Swedish Museum of Natural History, as well as a project on avian dispersal, differentiation and speciation along elevational gradients and across barriers in New Guinea led by the Natural History Museum of Denmark, and both projects include collaboration with the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin.

**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 Systematics and Evolutionary research 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 evolutionary ecology, molecular genetics/bioinformatics, or a similar subject. Applicants who have in principle acquired the corresponding competence in Sweden, or abroad, are also qualified.

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: the candidates’ documented knowledge of evolutionary theory, handling genomic data in phylogenetic or population genetic studies, programming in Python, Bash, R, or similar languages, familiarity with HPC environments, the candidate’s capabilities with regards to speaking and writing in English, analytical thinking, creativity, initiative, independence, and team work performance.

The applicant’s earlier experience within the field of research can be of relevance especially when further documented by university courses, independent research work, personal references, interview and an application indicating the applicant’s motivation in written form.

Admission Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University are available at: [www.su.se/rules and regulations](http://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 Martin Irestedt, telephone: +46 8 5195 40 59, martin.irestedt@nrm.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
- CV – degrees and other completed courses, work experience and a list of degree projects/theses
- Project proposal/Research proposal describing: why you are interested in the field/project described in the advertisement, why and how you wish to complete the project, your documented knowledge in handling genomic data and programming, as well as other qualifications that makes you suitable for the project in question
- 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!

Stockholms universitet bidrar till det hållbara demokratiska samhällets utveckling genom kunskap, upplysning och samningssökande.

Closing date: 30/09/2020

URL to this page: https://www.su.se/english/about/working-at-su/phd?rmpage=job&rmjob=12887&rmlang=UK

Apply