PhD student, Biology

Ref: SLU.ua.2020.2.5.1-4554

Department of Ecology

At the Department of Ecology in Uppsala, we conduct research for sustainable forest and agricultural production and efficient biological conservation. We study the influence of land use and climate on animals, plants, soils nutrient status, and greenhouse gas balances. Solutions are sought that will mitigate climate change, preserve threatened species, benefit biological diversity and ecosystem services, and control pests in forest and agricultural landscapes as well as in urban areas. See also: http://www.ekol.slu.se/ShowPage.cfm?OrgenhetSida_ID=9090.

The effect of climate on organisms associated with dead wood - consequences for biodiversity conservation and pest management

Description:
Climate change has a large effect on both pest management and biodiversity conservation. To some extent these effects may be buffered by microclimate, which in turn may change due forest management. The aim of this project is to increase our knowledge about which microclimatic conditions that favour different species, and to evaluate possible measures to control an economically important pest species (the spruce bark beetle), and at the same time minimizing negative effect on wood-living insects and fungi. To do that, a field experiment initiated in 2020 will be utilized and a laboratory experiment be initiated by the PhD student.

The PhD student will collect data in an experiment placed out from northern (Gällivare) to southern (Halland) Sweden and conduct a lab experiment. An important part of the work consists of statistical modelling of how organisms respond to microclimate and predictions of the microclimate given forest conditions and current and future climate. The supervision group consists of researchers with a background both in pest control and conservation biology: Prof. Thomas Ranius (https://www.slu.se/cv/thomas-ranius/; main supervisor), Ph. D. Kadri Runnel (https://www.etis.ee/CV/Kadri_Runnel/eng), Ass. Prof. Erik Öckinger (https://www.slu.se/en/cv/erik-ockinger/), and Prof. Martin Schroeder (https://www.slu.se/en/cv/martin-schroeder/).

Qualifications:
Applicants should have a Master's degree (or equivalent) in biology, or similar relevant subjects with specialization in ecology, and should have a strong interest in both theoretical and applied aspects of ecology and conservation biology. Advanced level courses that contain population and community ecology, conservation biology,
landscape ecology, forest management/planning are considered a merit. Documented skills in planning, executing, and reporting scientific studies are considered a merit, as is experience with statistical analyses and GIS. Experience from ecological field and laboratory work, in particular with insects or in forests, is a merit. The applicant should have the ability to work both independently and in a team. Proven ability to excellently write and speak English is essential. Excellent communication skills shown by, for instance, written texts is a merit. Driving license for cars is necessary.

Place of work:
Uppsala

Forms for funding or employment:
Employment as PhD student 4 years

Starting date:
According to agreement (as soon as possible).

Application:
We welcome your application no later than 2021-01-06, 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/doctoral-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.

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Contact person

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