PhD Position in Natural Science, specialising in Biology (Tropical Plant Evolution)

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The University of Gothenburg tackles society’s challenges with diverse knowledge. 49 000 students and 6 400 employees make the university a large and inspiring place to work and study. Strong research and attractive study programmes attract scientists and students from around the world. With new knowledge and new perspectives, the University contributes to a better future.

At the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences (BioEnv) we have teaching and research activities that stretch from the alpine ecosystem, through forests, cultivated land and streams, all the way into the marine environment. In these environments we study different levels of biological organisation from genes, individuals and populations, to communities and ecosystems. We work within ecology, evolution, physiology, systematics and combinations of these fields in order to understand the impact of natural and anthropogenic changes of the environment.

The department is placed at three different localities: in Gothenburg Botanical garden, at Medicinarberget in Gothenburg, and at the marine research station-Kristineberg. The current position is placed in the Botanical garden.

Project description

The general aim is to understand the assembly of rainforests in time and space. The specific focus of the research will be developed together with the supervisor, but could include (1) inferring spatial patterns of phylogenetic endemism and or adaptive potential to facilitate conservation, (2) sequencing ancient DNA from lake sediments to understand human impact on rainforests, (3) demographic modelling of abundant species to infer community assembly through time.

The student will be hosted in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences under the supervision of Dr. Christine Bacon. There will be ample opportunity for collaboration with other scientists in the Biological and Environmental Sciences and the Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre. The project is linked to the strategic research area Biodiversity and Ecosystem services in a Changing Climate (http://www.becc.lu.se), which hosts a research school that will be open for the recruited PhD student: ClimBEco (http://www.cec.lu.se/climbeco-graduate-research-school).

Job assignments

The main task is to conduct the PhD thesis work under supervision, which includes development of the PhD student’s methodology experience, analytical skills, and theoretical depth and breadth. Techniques used within the project include:

- **Phylogenomics**: using target sequence capture to develop phylogenies
• **Macroevolution**: leveraging phylogenies, fossils, and Bayesian models to infer the tempo and mode of divergence
• **Population genomics**: inferring adaptive potential for conservation prioritization

The studies will may include field and laboratory studies, depending on student interest. Training will be provided but the student should be keen to learn any new skills required.

**Third cycle education**

Admission to third cycle education is aiming at a PhD in Natural Science, specializing Biology. The education runs for four years of fulltime studies, containing three years of thesis work and one year of academic education (i.e. course work and literature studies). A selection of courses at the Department/Faculty is available, but national/international courses can also be selected. Some teaching and/or course administration can be included which extends the contract to the same extent.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for third-cycle studies, the applicant must meet both the general and specific entry requirements. A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programs if he/she:

1. has been awarded a second-cycle qualification, or
2. has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
3. has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

To meet the specific entry requirements for third-cycle studies, applicants must:

1. have a second-cycle (advanced-level) degree in a relevant* subject area in the natural sciences, or
2. have completed studies for at least 60 higher education credits at a second-cycle level in relevant subject areas in the natural sciences, or
3. have completed a corresponding programme of relevance to the planned third-cycle programme, in Sweden or in another country, or have equivalent qualifications.

*Relevant subject for the planned third-cycle education is biology.

**Assessment**

Rules regarding education and employment on a doctoral level you will find in Högskoleförordningen (HF, SFS 1993:100). Only applicants who are admitted to the postgraduate level may be hired. Upon appointment the degree of ability to successfully complete the PhD program must firstly be evaluated.

We are seeking a motivated, independent person for PhD studies in biology with emphasis on tropical plant evolution.

Essential attributes:

- Knowledge of basic evolution
- Creative thinking
- Excellent communication skills, written and spoken, in English are necessary
- Ability to work well independently and as part of a group

Desired attributes:
The application should be written in English and must include:

- An attested list of qualifications (CV)
- Description about 1) why you applied, 2) what you want to focus on during your PhD, and 3) what you want to do after your PhD (maximum two pages)
- Examination certificates and a transcript of courses with grades
- A copy of your Master thesis (or equivalent)
- Employments certificates and other documents deemed important by the applicant

The top ranked candidates will be selected for an interview, which will be held in English and performed by Zoom.

**Employment**

After admission to third-cycle studies you will be appointed to doctoral studentship. Regulations for employment of doctoral students are given in SFS 1993:100. The initial appointment may apply for no longer than one year. An appointment may be renewed for no more than two years at a time. A person may be appointed to a doctoral studentship for a total of eight years. The total employment period may, however, not exceed the time corresponding to full-time third-cycle study for four years.

Location: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Extent: 100%. First day of employment: upon agreement.

Salaries for doctoral students are regulated

**For further information regarding the position**

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**Unions**

Union representatives at the University of Gothenburg:  

**Information for International Applicants**

Choosing a career in a foreign country is a big step. Thus, to give you a general idea of what we and Gothenburg have to offer in terms of benefits and life in general for you and your family/spouse/partner please visit:

[https://www.movetogothenburg.com/](https://www.movetogothenburg.com/)
How to apply

In order to apply for a position at the University of Gothenburg, you have to register an account in our online recruitment system. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete in accordance with the instructions in the job advertisement, and that it is submitted before the deadline. The selection of candidates is made on the basis of the qualifications registered in the application.

Closing date: December 15th, 2020

The University of Gothenburg promotes equal opportunities, equality and diversity.

Applications will be destroyed or returned (upon request) two years after the decision of employment has become final. Applications from the employed and from those who appeal the decision will not be returned.

In connection to this recruitment, we have already decided which recruitment channels we should use. We therefore decline further contact with vendors, recruitment and staffing companies.

Apply