

Postdoctoral researcher in ecology

Biodiversity and ecosystem services in diversified agriculture

We are searching for a postdoctoral researcher to work on biodiversity (mainly insects and plants) and ecosystem services (e.g. pest control, nitrogen cycling, biomass production) in agricultural landscapes. The project addresses how diversification of agro-ecosystems affect biodiversity and the delivery and stability of ecosystem services, primary production and crop yields. You will enter a strong multi-disciplinary, international research environment addressing topical basic as well as applied ecological research questions. In this international collaborative project you will collect and publish data on links between biodiversity and multiple ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes across Europe.

The position is based at the Department of Ecology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), in Uppsala, Sweden. The project includes collaboration with the Department of Forest Mycology and Pathology, SLU, Uppsala. We conduct research for sustainable agriculture, forest production and biological conservation. Our basic research on populations, communities and ecosystems forms the foundation for understanding influences of land use and climate on animals, plants and soil nutrient status and greenhouse gas balance. Solutions are sought that will mitigate climate change, preserve threatened species, benefit biological diversity and ecosystem services and control pests in managed agricultural, forested and urban landscapes. Active dissemination, outreach and frequent contacts with stakeholders are key activities. We build on extensive national and international research collaborations to generate cutting-edge research and outreach to further ecology as science and promote sustainable agriculture (see e.g. <http://www2.ekol.slu.se/ecoservices>).

Duties: The postdoctoral researcher will perform syntheses and meta-analyses on links between diversification of agro-ecosystems at different scales, and ecosystem services provided agriculture based on information in the literature and databases. The empirical work will focus on community composition (co-occurrence of rare vs functionally important species) of interacting plants and insects, and on the spill-over of butterflies that are pests on crops and of their natural enemies (parasitoids) between crop fields and semi-natural habitats. The work will be planned and conducted in collaboration with researchers from several European countries. The successful candidate is expected to take active part in developing the project and designing field experiments, to independently coordinate the empirical work and analyze the collected data, and to write scientific publications in collaboration with the research team. The postdoc will, based on project results and in dialogue with stakeholders, participate in the development of guidelines for efficient diversification of agriculture. The postdoc will also assist in the supervision of graduate and undergraduate students, engage in and lead lab activities, and communicate with stakeholders.

Qualifications: We are looking for a highly motivated candidate pursuing a research career in ecology and with an interest in biodiversity and ecosystem services. The required qualification for the position is a PhD in ecology, or equivalent. Documented expertise in statistical analyses is required. Experience in community ecology, insect and plant ecology is meriting, as is experience of meta-analyses, and ecological field work. The candidate is expected to be capable and willing to take initiative and work independently as well as in a team. The candidate should have documented skills in scientific writing. Excellent communication skills in English (both written and oral) are required. Field work will take place in multiple locations, and a driving license is therefore required.

Place of work: Uppsala

Form of employment: Temporary employment as postdoctoral researcher one year with possibility for extension one more year.

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) develops the understanding 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

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Extent: 100%

Starting date: August 2016 or by agreement

Application: We welcome your application marked with **Ref no. SLU ua 1953/2016**.

Please submit your application to the Registrar of SLU, P.O. Box 7070, SE-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden or registrator@slu.se no later than **June 26, 2016**.

Specific documents attached: Do not send your application to the contact person, only applications submitted to the Registrar are eligible. Applications that include the following documents will be considered: (1) CV with a complete list of publications separated into peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed articles, (2) certified PhD diploma, (3) a description of previous research and other activities relevant for the position (e.g. teaching or extension), and a description of specific research interests (maximum two pages), and (4) names and contact information of at least two persons providing references for the applicant.

SLU is an equal opportunity employer.