

PhD student in Marine Ecology

at [the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences](#). Closing date: **2nd May**

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At the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences at Stockholm University research and education is conducted in an international environment. The subject areas are marine and plant ecology, ecotoxicology, plant physiology and plant systematics. Some of the research has direct environmental and societal relevance and the approach is often broad and interdisciplinary. About 150 people are working at the department, of which ca. 60 are teachers and researchers and 50 are PhD students.

Project description

The Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences invites applications for a four-year PhD position part of the project "**Food web connectance and stability in Baltic benthic ecosystems**".

How species interact with each other is central to ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem service and are the basis of interaction networks (e.g. food webs). Understanding food webs architecture and their structural mechanisms is crucial to predicting their response to disturbance. Despite their importance, a lot more work has been done in investigating biodiversity in an ecosystem than in understanding and assessing species interactions, mainly due to the methodological limitations related to identifying and quantifying food web relationships and their structural mechanisms. DNA techniques, particularly DNA barcoding provide opportunities to address some of these limitations and provide for highly resolved webs.

This is particularly important for benthic invertebrate food-webs which are dominated by detritivores. Most of our knowledge of these food webs rely on macrobenthic species interactions with a large trophic flexibility. We today, know very little about how the smaller more selective benthic metazoan and eukaryotic species and how they interact in food webs. The central aim of this project is to advance our knowledge of the topology and structure of marine benthic food webs and understand the role of trophic flexibility and omnivore in mediating connectance and stability of benthic ecological networks. In addition, this project will investigate how food webs mediate effects of anthropogenic disturbance on benthic ecosystems

We are looking for a highly motivated, creative and ambitious student with an excellent diploma or master degree in marine biology, molecular biology with emphasis on ecology. We expect a strong interest in general ecological questions, and great enthusiasm for scientific work. Ideally, the student will have knowledge of benthic ecology and excellent laboratory skills. Experience of PCR analysis, genetic sequencing and bioinformatics pipelines are also considered a merit.

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 marine ecology stipulates, that applicants must have completed at least 60 higher education credits in the second cycle, of which 30 credits must be from a course in biology, geology and chemistry and 30 credits from project in ecology, or have otherwise acquired equivalent knowledge in Sweden or elsewhere.

Only a person who will be or has already been admitted to a third-cycle programme may be appointed to a doctoral studentship. The primary assessment criteria in appointing a doctoral student should be the capacity to benefit from the training.

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 in a relevant field of research, written and oral proficiency in English, statistical skills, interpersonal and communication skills. The assessment will be based on previous experience and grades, the quality of the degree project, references, relevant experience, interviews, and the candidate's written motivation for seeking the position.

Admission Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University are available at: www.regelboken.su.se.

Terms of employment

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 project leader Francisco Nascimento (assistant professor), telephone: +46 8 16 49 26, francisco.nascimento@su.se. Further information about the position can be obtained from the Subject Representative Jonas Gunnarsson (professor), telephone: +46 8 16 42 53, jonas.gunnarsson@su.se.

Union representatives

Anqi Lindblom-Ahlm (Saco-S) and Lisbeth Häggberg (Fackförbundet ST), telephone: +46 8 16 20 00 (operator), Gunnar Stenberg (SEKO), telephone: +46 70 316 43 41, and PhD student representative, fredrik.c.l@sus.su.se.

Application

Apply for the position at Stockholm University's recruitment system by clicking the "Apply" button. 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. We recommend that you hand in your application, including necessary documents, in English.

Please include the following information with your application

- Your contact details and personal data
- Your highest university degree
- Your language skills
- Contact details for 2–3 reference persons

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
- Research proposal (no more than 3 pages) describing:
 - Short overview of the research field
 - Main hypothesis to be tested in the research proposal
 - How you would carry out the project
- 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 3 files).

The instructions for applicants are available at: [Instructions – Applicants](#).

You are welcome to apply!