

PhD studentship in Ecology, with specialty in Plant Ecology and Systematics

Located in the Department of Ecology, Faculty of Science, Lund University.

Diary number 2008765

REFERENCE NUMBER: 65

Starting date: as soon as possible

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Project description:

This project is part of a collaboration between the Department of Physical Geography & Ecosystems Analysis (INES), the Plant Ecology & Systematics Section of the Department of Ecology at Lund University, and the Institute of Botany at the University of Regensburg, Germany. The project focusses on plant species occurrences and biodiversity in fragmented grasslands on the Baltic island of Öland. The PhD student will study species diversity and the dynamics of grassland plant populations in relation to the process of succession from arable cultivation to semi-natural pasture. The project will explore the chronology of species-establishment and density changes in species-populations (on different spatial scales) within arable-to-grassland successional chronosequences. Established, species rich grasslands and younger grasslands that are in the process of developing on abandoned arable fields will be used to investigate relationships between species diversity (alpha and beta diversity) and grassland age. Results from Öland will be compared with results from successional studies in similar cultural landscapes in southern Germany. Temporal changes in the distribution of grassland patches will be studied with the help of a GIS database.

Qualifications:

Applications should have a Master's degree or equivalent in ecology, environmental science or similar subject areas, and competence within plant population and community ecology. Extremely good plant species knowledge and identification skills are required. Field work is an essential part of the project and the student is therefore expected to have a driving licence. A very good knowledge of written and spoken English is required. Experience of univariate and multivariate statistics, GIS and the analysis of soil chemistry/structure are also regarded as desirable merits.

Additional information:

The four year PhD project is funded by an 18 months stipendium (c. 15 300 SEK; taxable with reduced social benefits), followed by 2½ years with a full salary (starting at c. 20 600 SEK; taxable and with full social benefits). A Swedish PhD represents four years of full-time study. Of these four years, three years are devoted to research activities and one year is devoted to advanced course work, in which course points are obtained via attendance at research level courses given in Lund or elsewhere in Europe.

Applications, including countersigned copies of course certificates and diplomas, should be sent to:

Registrar, Kansli N, Lund University, Box 118, SE-221 00 Lund, Sweden by 22 February 2008 at 16.00

Additional copies of the application should be emailed to Honor Prentice, Martin Sykes and Peter Poschlod (see above for email addresses) from whom further information on the project and application procedure may be obtained.