

PhD student in Plant Physiology (A)

Ref. No. SU FV-0190-17

Apply

at [the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences](#). **Closing date: 3 March 2017.**

At the Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences at Stockholm University research and education are conducted in an international environment. The subject areas include marine and plant ecology, ecotoxicology, plant physiology and plant systematics. Some of the research has direct environmental and societal relevance and approaches are often broad and interdisciplinary. About 140 people are working at the department, among which 35 are teachers or senior researchers, and ca. 50 are PhD students.

Project description

Supervisors: Dr. Sara Rydberg, sara.rydberg@su.se; Docent Ulla Rasmussen, ulla.rasmussen@su.se

The position will be associated with the project "Function, biosynthesis and cumulative impact of the emerging neurotoxin BMAA". Many phytoplankton groups produce biotoxic metabolites which have been connected with adverse/lethal health effects in humans and other vertebrates. It is assumed that the toxins provide advantages for the producing organisms but their functions are largely unknown. β -methylamino-L-alanine (BMAA) is a neurotoxic non-protein amino acid produced by diatoms, dinoflagellates and cyanobacteria. It has been shown to be linked to the neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Our present knowledge on how, why and under what conditions BMAA is being produced is to a large extent speculative. Hence, the main goal of the proposed PhD project is to elucidate the physiological function and synthetic pathways of BMAA in diatoms.

The successful candidate will be trained in several molecular- as well as analytical techniques, such as liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), RNA/DNA analysis, bioinformatics, protein characterization etc.

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 Plant Physiology stipulates, that applicants must have completed at least 60 higher education credits in the second cycle, of which 15 credits must be from an advanced course in Plant Physiology and 30 credits from a project in Plant Physiology, 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 subject, knowledge of and proficiency in experimental methods, written and oral proficiency in English, the capacity for analytical thinking, the ability to collaborate, as well as creativity, initiative, and independence. 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. Previous experience with liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry and phytotoxins are an advantage.

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

More information about the position can be obtained from Dr. Sara Rydberg, telephone: +46 8 16 37 67, sara.rydberg@su.se.

For further information, please contact Prof. Lisbeth Jonsson (subject representative for postgraduate studies), telephone: +46 8 16 12 11, lisbeth.jonsson@su.se.

Union representatives

Anqi Lindblom-Ahlm (Saco-S) and Lisbeth Häggberg (Fackförbundet ST and Lärarförbundet), telephone: +46 8 16 20 00 (operator), seko@seko.su.se (SEKO), and PhD student representative, doktorandombud@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 degree
- Your language skills
- Contact details for 2–3 references

and, in addition, please include the following documents

- Cover letter (no more than 2 pages) describing:
 - your intentions and expectations of pursuing doctoral studies
 - why you are interested in the field/project described in the advertisement
 - what makes you suitable for the project in question
- CV – degrees and other completed courses, work experience and a list of degree projects/theses
- 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!

Vi är ett av Europas ledande universitet i en av världens mest dynamiska huvudstäder. En relation med Stockholms universitet är meriterande oavsett om du är student, forskare eller intressent. Hos oss ger utbildning och forskning resultat.

Closing date: 03/03/2017

URL to this page <http://www.su.se/english/about/vacancies/vacancies-new-list?rmpage=job&rmjob=2567&rmlang=UK>

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