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Marine Ecology PhD position at Stockholm University Sweden

- Position opportunities -

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Application deadline 30th September 2016

The Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences at Stockholm University invites applications for a four-year PhD position part of the project "Benthic metazoan diversity in Baltic Sea soft-sediments: Structuring factors at an ecosystem scale".

Maintaining the biodiversity and the structure of aquatic ecosystems is a vital goal for researchers and managers, particularly in the light of international legislative frameworks. Despite this, the true diversity of Baltic Sea sediments, particularly in regards to the meiofauna (invertebrates smaller than 1 mm), the most abundant and diverse metazoan group in marine sediments is a major knowledge gap in Baltic Sea ecology.

Description

The PhD student will be involved in the development and evaluation of DNA metabarcoding as a new, cost-effective approach for quantifying soft-sediment metazoan biodiversity for use in research and bioassessment. The student will use a combination of both field sampling and experimental work to strengthen our knowledge of how metazoan diversity is structured by human-induced pressures (eutrophication, invasive species and exposure to multiple pollutants) and environmental drivers and use this information to project changes in ecosystem structure and function under future climate, nutrient and pollution scenarios.

The outcome of this research is expected to develop a predictive framework linking Baltic benthic biodiversity and community structure with its drivers at an ecosystem- scale and ultimately with ecosystem function. The student will conduct the research at Stockholm University and has the opportunity to participate in international collaborations within other projects.

Qualifications required

We are looking for a highly motivated, creative and ambitious student with an excellent diploma or master degree in marine biology, molecular biology or ecotoxicology 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 with excellent laboratory skills. Experience of PCR analysis, genetic sequencing and bioinformatics pipelines are also considered a merit. Good statistical skills, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, a strong sense of determination to succeed, and the ability to express his or her ideas in English are further expected.

How to apply

Applications are to be submitted through Stockholm University's recruitment system by clicking the "Apply" button at the link:

<http://www.su.se/english/about/vacancies/vacancies-new-list?rmpage=job&rmjob=1833&rmlang=UK>

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For more information about the position, please contact project leader

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