

To New PhD-students



Welcome as PhD-student in Biology at Stockholm University. You have recently been accepted to attend and perform research studies at one of the three departments forming the Biology Section

of the Faculty of Sciences. We are happy that you decided to choose our university for your studies and congratulate you to four to five years of inspiring and stimulating activities aiming to increase our understanding of basic biology. No doubt this will also be a challenging and demanding period with long hours at the bench, in the field and behind the computer. The reward is the privilege to participate together with your supervisor and fellow students in the unearthing of new insights about Nature while being trained to become an independent scientist in a creative and inspiring milieu.

As part of your training you are also required to follow a study course program specifically tailored for each student together with their supervisor. For this reason all PhD-students are automatically registered at the BioResearch School www.bioresschool.su.se

BioResearch School

The Stockholm University BioResearch School organize PhD-courses for Biology Students performing their PhD-studies in any

area covered by the biology departments. Depending on subject area, students belong either to the research school in molecular life sciences or to the research school in biodiversity and ecology. However, the courses are open for all students no matter the branch they belong to.

In addition to subject-related courses, the BioResearch School organize an introductory course, obligatory for all PhD-students and required for those expected to participate in teaching, a course preparing the students for their career after the PhD, and general interest courses such as statistics and scientific writing, as well as special events, e.g workshops and the annual PhD-day. Those activities are equally well attended by students from both branches of the research school, providing ample opportunities for transdisciplinary interactions. The BioResearch School is led by two coordinators that report to a steering committee appointed by the Biology Section.

What's needed, what's expected and what's the payoff

To receive a PhD in biology at Stockholm University you need to successfully pass a course package, produce a thesis of a quality that meets the standards required for publication in international journals and defend your work in a public dissertation. This requires drive and active planning throughout the different



stages of the study period; let's be fair about this – you need to be both self-going and hard-working. Creativity comes from knowing the issues to be tackled by heart; it means extensive data acquisition, thorough literature studies and interactions with colleagues and collaborators. This is easy when the experimentation runs smoothly but can be ever so hard when everything seems to go completely wrong. This is why you have a supervisor for support and to discuss with about your hypothesis and the approaches you have taken to tackle it. It is also why you need to read the literature and attend courses to build a general knowledge of both theory and methodology of your research field.

The payoff for the long hours is the privilege to understand and be inspired by a piece of Nature and be able to communicate your insights to colleagues and the society. It is our conviction that the skills and confidence you acquire during this training will make you well prepared for future endeavors no matter whether you stay in Sciences or not.

What do you have to do now

Register your e-mail address with the BioResearch School and check up for the next "Introductory course for PhD-students" at <http://www.bioresearchschool.su.se>

Some other web sites you may find useful

<http://www.science.su.se/english/education/doctoral-level;>
<http://www.sus.su.se/en/phd-student;>
<http://www.su.se/rules/>; <http://www.doktorandhandboken.nu/engelska/english.4.24cc9d95134182bfa4a800041.html>

PhD-students in Molecular Life Sciences reach the board of their student council at phdboard.mbw@su.se. Students in Biodiversity and Ecology, are directed to the respective department web-page for their representatives.

**Last but not least
we wish you best
of luck with your
research studies.
Have fun.**

Karl Gotthard & Claes Andréasson
Coordinators, the BioResearch School