

Monday meeting | Department of Geological Sciences

Monday IGV notes by Magnus Mörth, April 22, 2024

1. The Minister of Education's debate article recently criticised for wanting to influence university course offerings by pitting programs against each other. The minister focused on single hobby like courses on distance and gave also some examples. This has rightly stirred up the universities in the country. The heads of Lund and Uppsala argue for that the reason for the decline in education is because of decline in the amount of money given to the universities the last 50 years and the ever-increasing rental costs where the profit is given back to the government.

Our head writes in her blog write a lot for defending those courses and give an example. The master's program in climate, energy and environment that Stockholm University is responsible for within the framework of our European university collaboration CIVIS is therefore being designed precisely as a free interdisciplinary program, where the first semester is about acquiring elementary "literacy" in the scientific areas where you yourself lack competence.

2. When registration for the autumn semester closed at midnight on April 15, 82,016 people had registered for courses at Stockholm University. This is an increase of 5.6 percent compared to last year. Looking at the total number of first-time applicants, Stockholm University came first, followed by Uppsala University.

In the whole country, the number of applicants increased by eight percent compared to the autumn semester 2023. Close to 406,000 people have applied for education at one of Sweden's universities this year.

The most sought-after programs at Stockholm University are the Law program with roughly 7,000 applicants, followed by the Psychology program, the Bachelor's program in business administration, the Sociology program and the Bachelor's program in criminology.

Stockholm University's most sought-after stand-alone course is Criminology (Distance) I with almost 2,800 applicants, followed by Business Administration I course package, Criminology I, Psychology I – course package and Communication, leadership and health.

3. The Purchasing Council - Inköpsrådet, some comments we gave recently (thank you Julia and Carina):

We at SU are not allowed to buy used mobile phones or computers. When an employee wants to buy, for example, a used mobile phone for environmental reasons and is not allowed, it feels a bit absurd, because we should strive for reduced resource consumption and lower emissions. I think it would be good if it could be brought up for discussion.

The implementation of the new framework agreement for rental gas cylinders has been deficient. The institutions received insufficient information in advance, which led to problems with billing and delivery. During the transition period, communication and information were also substandard, which resulted in extra unnecessary work for both institutions and suppliers. Better involvement and communication with the institutions from the beginning could have avoided this chaos.

4. Ethical use of AI - how do universities take responsibility in research and education?

Date: 2024-04-23

Time: 15:00

End time: 16:30

Location: On Zoom

This is seminar no. 3 in the series The University and AI - a joint seminar series that will be held this year.

<https://medarbetare.su.se/vart-su/medarbetarinformation/kalender-for-medarbetare/kalender/2024-04-03-etiskt-bruk-av-ai---hur-tar-larosatena-ansvar-inom-forskning-och-utbildning>

5. In the 2024 edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, Stockholm University ranks in the top 50 in six subjects in the world, and best in Sweden in eight subjects.

Six subjects in the top 50 in the world

The subjects at Stockholm University that are ranked in the top 50 in the world are:

social policy/administration (11)

environmental science (25)

geophysics (38)

sociology (38)

geography (40)

geology (40)

Eight subjects are also ranked number one in Sweden. Stockholm University is the best in the country in: social policy/administration, environmental science, geophysics, geology, sociology, anthropology, linguistics and modern languages.

More information:

<https://www.su.se/nyheter/stockholms-universitet-p%C3%A5-topp-50-i-v%C3%A4rlden-inom-sex-%C3%A4mnen-i-qs-rankning-1.728482>

6. How is the academic identity of university teachers affected when they work with "wicked problems" in their teaching? This is something we have to handle as many of us is working with climate change, a typical wicked problem. The problems also mean that different, conflicting interests are actualised and need to be weighed against each other.

To an ever-increasing degree, those in power are making demands on universities of higher education to teach about and teach students to deal with what in English is called "wicked problems", which with a direct translation into Swedish becomes "insidious" or "compound problems". Wicked problems can be described as boundless, complex and complicated problems — often in the plural — that cannot be easily understood and where proposals for solutions often create new problems.

See more at,

<https://www.su.se/centrum-for-universitetslararutbildning/akademiskt-1%C3%A4rskap/aktuell-forskning/aktuell-h%C3%B6gskolepedagogisk-forskning/att-f%C3%A5nga-sv%C3%A5rf%C3%A5ngade-problem-1.728440>

7. There is an upcoming board meeting, may 7. If you want to have something handed by the board please send it in to me before first of May.
8. Visualizing data with Python. Stockholm Trio Software Carpentry Workshop - Learn how to code with Python.

Date: 2024-05-20

End date: 2024-05-21

Time: 09:00

End time: 15:00

Location: KTH

More info:

<https://medarbetare.su.se/vart-su/medarbetarinformation/kalender-for-medarbetare/kalender/2024-04-13-visualizing-data-with-python>

Register at <https://matves29.github.io/2024-05-20-StockholmTrio/>

9. Spring lunch will be 4th of June.