Programme overview

Plants use intricate systems for growth, development, transport and metabolism to cope with adverse environmental conditions, but also have considerable capacity to adapt genetically to both biotic and abiotic factors. An understanding of the mechanisms that underlie these features is of fundamental importance for all biological disciplines. This is the subject for you if you are interested in plant biology, evolution and biodiversity.

You will gain knowledge and understanding of how plants function at different levels of organisation, from the molecular to the eco-physiological level. You will gain knowledge of the methodology used in plant biological work and in research into physiological, molecular and cell biological issues. You will learn about the mechanisms that are involved in the evolution of new plant species and the factors that control plant diversity and the distribution of plant species. You will come to understand the way in which mating systems and population structure influence gene flow and genetic diversity in plants. You will study how plants interact with other organisms and their ability to adapt to environmental change. You will be given a scientifically-based perspective to the conservation biology of plants, and gain practical experience of ecological methodology. Field trips and laboratory work are integrated parts of many courses in this study programme.

Special features of the programme

• Broad range of courses covering ecological and evolutionary topics related to plants, fungi and lichens
• Close connections to state-of-the-art research in an international environment
• Integration of theoretical analyses with field work and strong training of laboratory skills
• Freedom to create your own study programme and specialisation

Programme modules/courses

COMPULSORY COURSES: Plant Function, Plant Evolution and Adaptation, and a Master’s degree project in Plant Science.

ELECTIVES: Plant Systematics and Diversity, Population and Community Ecology, Soil and Plant Ecology, Conservation Biology, Molecular Ecology and Evolution, Genetic Analysis, Bioinformatics and Sequence Analysis, and Processing and Analysis of Biological Data.

Most courses are full-time studies, and you usually take only one course at a time. The courses are typically teaching-intensive, with lectures, seminars, excursions as well as theoretical and practical exercises. You are expected to spend about 40 hours per week on studies, self-studies included. Normally you take two courses of 15 credits per semester, i.e. a total of 60 credits per year.

Career prospects

The educational programme provides a foundation for continued studies at the doctoral level within the fields of plant biology, evolutionary botany, plant ecology, conservation biology, plant breeding and biotechnology, but also opens doors to employment within the public sector, forestry and agricultural organisations, ecological and conservation consultancy, plant breeding and education.

Entry requirements and how to apply

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Bachelor’s degree including 90 credits in biology (which should include 15 credits in cell biology, genetics and microbiology, 15 credits in ecology, 15 credits in botany and 15

“I would recommend this programme to someone who is interested in plants and nature, because you will learn how plants interact with the environment and you will gain practical work experience in the field. At the same time, you will have opportunities to direct your own study based on your interest.”

Anupong Saenruen from Thailand
credits in zoology) and 7.5 credits in statistics. English Level 6 (equivalent to IELTS 6.5, TOEFL 90). For details on English proficiency levels, see www.lunduniversity.lu.se.

HOW TO APPLY
1. Apply online: Go to www.lunduniversity.lu.se/biology-plant-science. Click on “Apply” and follow the instructions for the online application at the Swedish national application website www.universityadmissions.se. Rank the chosen programmes in order of preference.
2. Submit your supporting documents:
   • General Supporting documents: Check what documents you need to submit (i.e. official transcripts, degree diploma/proof of expected graduation, translations, proof of English, passport) and how you need to submit them at www.universityadmissions.se.
   • Programme-specific supporting documents: We encourage you to fill in our Summary Sheet when you apply for this programme. More information can be found on the programme webpage.
3. Pay the application fee (when applicable).

SELECTION CRITERIA/ADDITIONAL INFO
Selection of students is based on grades on academic courses of relevance for the Master’s programme.

TUITION FEES
There are no tuition fees for EU/EEA citizens. For non-EU/EEA citizens the tuition fee for this programme is SEK 145 000 per year. For details on tuition fees, see www.lunduniversity.lu.se

About the Department of Biology
We have an outstanding competence in both education and research, covering a large number of biological disciplines with everything from molecular biology to large scale ecology. Several of our research groups are world-leading within their topic, which shows by the large number of international projects being coordinated from the department of Biology. Since our education is integrated with the research within the department you will, during your studies, have researchers as teachers and get into close contact with the ongoing projects.

About Lund University
Lund University was founded in 1666 and is repeatedly ranked among the world’s top 100 universities. The University has 42 000 students and 7 400 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. We are united in our efforts to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

Lund is the most popular study location in Sweden. The University offers one of the broadest ranges of programmes and courses in Scandinavia, based on cross-disciplinary and cutting-edge research. The compact university campus encourages networking and creates the conditions for scientific breakthroughs and innovations. The University has a distinct international profile, with partner universities in over 70 countries.

Lund University has an annual turnover of SEK 8 billion, of which two-thirds go to research. Our research is characterised by both breadth and strength and, according to independent evaluations, over 30 of our research fields are world-leading.

The establishment of the world-leading facilities MAX IV and ESS will have a major impact on future scientific and industrial development in both materials science and life science. MAX IV, which was inaugurated in June 2016, is the leading synchrotron radiation facility in the world, while the European research facility ESS will be the world’s most powerful neutron source when it opens for research in 2023. Adjacent to these facilities, Science Village Scandinavia is also being developed into a meeting place and testing environment for research, education and entrepreneurship.

Learn more at www.lunduniversity.lu.se
Ask questions and follow news at facebook.com/lunduniversity

CONTACT
Programme webpage
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