



SCIENCE AND  
EDUCATION **FOR**  
**SUSTAINABLE**  
**LIFE**

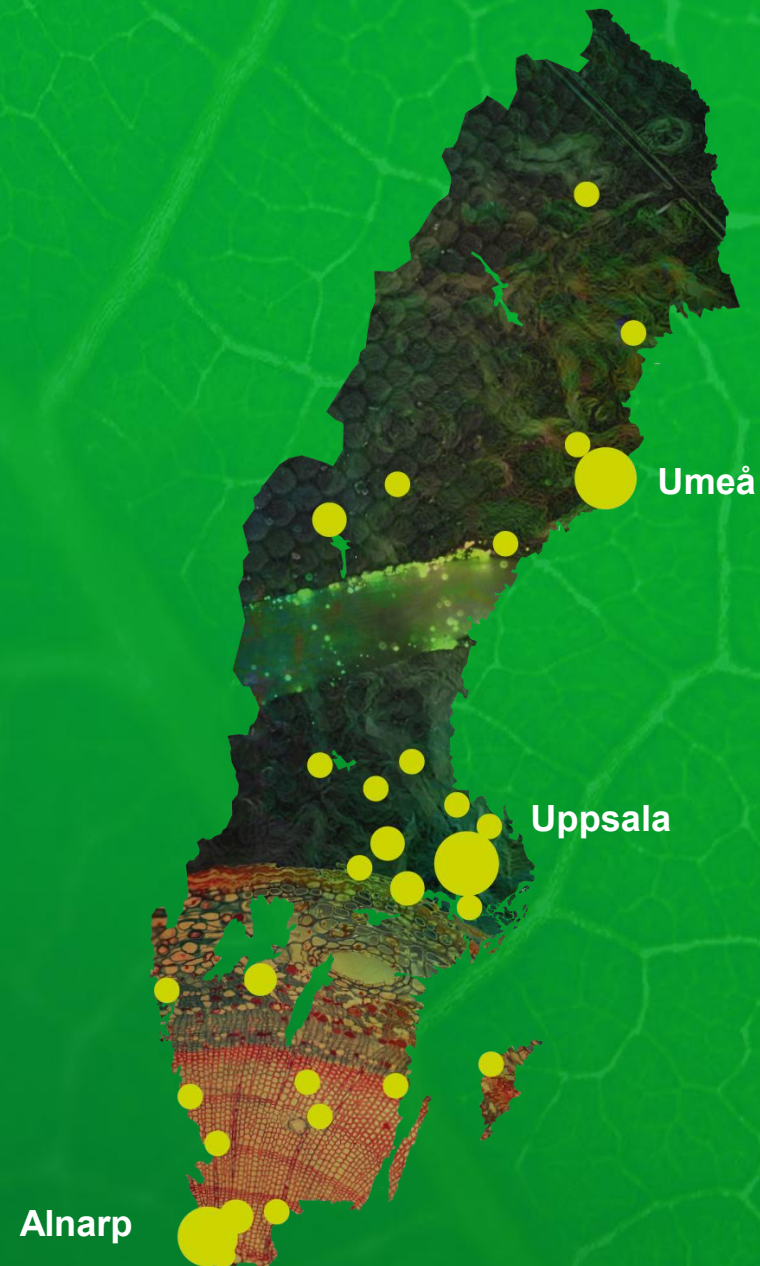
Preparing Doctoral Candidates for Careers Beyond Academia at SLU in general and more specific at the Faculty of Forest Sciences – A reflexion.

Faculty of Forest Sciences, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

# SLU IN SWEDEN

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SLU is located at three principal locations in Sweden. We also conduct research, education, environmental assessment and collaborative activities at many research stations, experimental parks and campuses throughout Sweden.





## We offer:

- Thematic courses that are given by the departments
- Seminars/workshops on transferable skills
- Networking events
- Information channel for relevant events/courses
- Funding for travelling to the events organised by SILVA
- PhD conference

~170 PhD students



~20% "Industry-linked"

## Background

- Growing recognition that PhD graduates pursue careers beyond academic research
- Career destinations include industry, research institutes, government agencies, and the private sector
- Industry-linked doctoral positions connect research with real-world challenges



## Current Initiatives

- Collaboration-based doctoral positions
- Research school cooperation with external partners
- Networking grants
- Career development services
- Development of transferable skills: project management, collaboration, communication, and leadership



# Examples

## Industry-/collaboration PhD projects

**The function of tree retention for biodiversity**

**Innovative methods in plant production: Spray-induced gene silencing for the control of liverwort (*Marchantia polymorpha*)**

**How does decidification (deciduous forest restoration) impact interactions, function and habitat dynamics of bird, bat and beetle assemblages**

**Mixed forests in Northern Sweden: Productivity, resilience and biodiversity**

**Unveiling new horizons in forest floor remote sensing**

**Co-planning timber production and nature conservation: Spatial and temporal habitat modelling for sustainable forest management**

**Microclimate buffering and species responses to clearcut and non-clearcut forestry**



## Benefits for PhD Students

- Application of research in practical contexts
- Expanded professional networks
- Improved employability
- Broader understanding of knowledge use outside universities



- Opportunities vary across departments and research fields
- Engagement with industry is not always fully integrated into doctoral programs
- Project alignment with industry needs and open communication throughout the research work.



# Balancing Research and Career Development

PhD students may struggle to balance:

- Research productivity requirements
- Networking activities
- Internships and professional training



## Conclusions and Future Directions

- The Faculty of forest sciences has taken important steps toward broadening doctoral training
- Further systematic engagement with industry can better support diverse career pathways



# Go raibh míle maith agat

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