The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) - Four campuses in Sweden

Exchange information

SEMESTERS AVAILABLE  Fall  Spring  Academic Year  X Summer
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Swedish is the official language, but English is widely spoken. Many courses are taught in English.
GPA REQUIREMENT: 2.75
STUDENTS MUST BE OF JUNIOR STATUS OR HIGHER

Student Reports

What do students have to say about studying at BOKU? Read reports from other Cornell students:

Michela, Fall 2011
Dan, Spring 2010
Dan also blogged about his experience at SLU. Check it out!

Recent news

View photos of SLU and the town of Uppsala here.

Overview
SLU's main campuses are located at Alnarp, Skara, Uppsala, and Umeå. Through an agreement between The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Sweden and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University, CALS undergraduate students may apply to enroll directly at SLU for a semester or a year. Our exchange with SLU was our first, and our partnership is over 50 years old! Students study alongside SLU students and are eligible to participate in the many activities sponsored by SLU and its student body.

This exchange program is open to undergraduate CALS students of sophomore or higher standing, and is awarded on first-come, first-serve basis. CALS students pay their current Cornell tuition with no additional fees. Housing, food, visa, travel, health insurance, books, and other personal expenses are paid separately.

We have a limited number of FREE HOUSING scholarships to award exchange students (first-come, first-awarded). There is also a monthly stipend granted to the students receiving free housing. It amounts to about 2500 SEK per month. So, if you study at SLU there is a good chance you won't have to pay for your room—amazing!

Students: 3634
International exchange students per year: 421
Staff: 2600

How to apply
You will apply to the exchange after meeting with the CALS study abroad and exchange advisor in 140 Roberts Hall. All application materials will be returned to CALS—not to the university directly.

Application deadlines
15th of October for the spring semester and the 15 March for the fall semester or academic year.

Programs of study
SLU is one of its kind in Sweden, with its blend of unique educational programmes. No other Swedish university offers programmes in natural resources, veterinary medicine, landscape design, agronomy and forest sciences. As a student you will be coming to a university with long traditions and a long history of education.

There is a large selection of course available to exchange students including:

Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticulture and Agricultural Science
- Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
- Plant Protection Biology
- Horticulture
- Agriculture - Farming Systems, Technology and Product Quality
- Rural Buildings and Animal Husbandry
- Landscape Architecture
- Landscape Management, Design and Construction
- Work Science, Business Economics and Environmental Psychology
- The Biotron

Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences
- Agricultural research for Northern Sweden
- Aquatic Sciences and Assessment
- Chemistry
- Crop Production Ecology
- Ecology
- Economics
- Energy and Technology
- Food Science
- Forest Mycology and Pathology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology
- Plant Biology and Forest Genetics
- Soil and Environment
- Urban and Rural Development
- The Phytotron

Centres
- Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CUL)
- Centre of Biostochastics
- Competence Centre for Pesticides (CKB)
Fun facts

Free housing and a monthly stipend is awarded for students studying at SLU (on a first-come, first-awarded basis).

Location and highlights
The Ultuna/Uppsala Campus

The research is extensive, encompassing agriculture and forestry, food, biotechnology, natural resources, the environment and economics, and also animal husbandry, animal protection, farm-animal genetics, and veterinary medicine. Educational programmes are provided in all these areas; in Sweden, it is only at SLU that the qualifications of certified agronomist and veterinary surgeon can be obtained.

SLU's largest campus, Ultuna, is situated six kilometres south of Uppsala. The city is one of the University's four principal locations. It is the home of university administration, the Vice-Chancellor's office, and the faculties of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. There is a striking international element in activities at SLU Uppsala. By virtue of having been commissioned by the Swedish Government to pursue "environmental monitoring and assessment", designed to achieve sustainable development, there is a strong link to work on Sweden's environmental goals and its international commitments.

The Alnarp Campus

The Faculty of Landscape Planning, Horticultural and Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp offers a broad range of research and education. Alnarp is in the south of Sweden—nearby great places like Copenhagen, Denmark and Malmö, Sweden.

The Skara Campus

Skara is the smallest of SLU's four main locations. Today, research and education is being pursued in four areas: industry-proximate foodstuffs expertise; animal husbandry and welfare; animal medical treatment and care; and, precision agriculture. The animal healthcare programme is one of the most sought-after within the university. Two of SLU's faculties conduct operations at SLU Skara: the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, and the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences.

The Umeå Campus

Umeå is referred to as the "City of Birches," but for researchers it is also the city of the spruces, the pines and the aspens. The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Umeå is the centre for forest research in the country. The city is one of SLU's four principal locations and the home of the Faculty of Forest Sciences. It is here that the bulk of the Faculty's research and education takes place.
The Faculty carries out research in areas such as forest management, forest maintenance, forest biotechnology, forest ecology and the environment, forest economics, recreation and health, wildlife and fish, and also the use and management of Sweden's mountain environment. What we should do with the forest is an urgent topical issue. Is it for boiling, sawing, burning, distilling, or just for walking?

Course selection

Search for courses here!

Assessment and grading

Courses may be assessed in various ways, such as written examinations, oral examinations, and papers, as well as a combination of these. The examinations and papers are intended to assess the student's comprehension of the subject discussed. At the end of each semester there will be an examination period, but examinations and papers during the semester will all count towards your final grade.

Study load

Regular course load is 60 ECTS per year (each course = 6 ECTS); 30 ECTS per semester. Minimum course load for exchange students is four courses per semester, which equals 24 ECTS (12 Cornell credit hours). Students are permitted to select courses from other faculties or colleges.

ECTS grading system

SLU University makes use of ECTS (European Credit Transfer System), developed by the European Commission to provide common procedures guaranteeing academic recognition of studies abroad and thereby facilitating international mobility programmes. The ECTS is based on the student workload required to achieve the objectives of a programme, objectives which are preferably specified in terms of the learning outcomes and competences to be acquired. 1 ECTS-credit equals 28 hours of workload (this includes lectures, self-study and exam preparation). One academic year consists of 60 ECTS both on Bachelor and Master level. See the table below for how grades are assigned to students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European grade (ECTS)</th>
<th>American grade</th>
<th>Percentage of successful students normally achieving the grade</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>A+ A</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Excellent: outstanding performance with only minor errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Very good: above the average standard but with some errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>B C+</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Good: generally sound work with a number of notable errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D/E</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Sufficient: performance meets the minimum criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FX</td>
<td>D F</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fail: some more work required before the credit can be awarded</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fail: considerable further work is required</td>
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Academic calendar

You can find the academic calendar here.

About Sweden

Geography
Sweden is situated between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea and is the fifth largest country in Europe. In terms of area it is similar to for example Spain, Thailand or the state of California. The distance between the northern tip and the southern tip is nearly 1,600 km (1,000 miles), and this means that its natural features are quite varied. Half of the land surface is covered with forest and less than 10% is farmland. Nearly 100,000 lakes are connected in a lacework of waterways, and many large rivers flow from the northwestern mountains through the forests to the sea. The mountains in northwest reach heights of up to 2,100 m (7,000 ft). A long coastline with thousands of islands also contributes to the character of the country.
Population
Sweden has a population of 9 million. About 80% of the inhabitants of Sweden live in cities and urban areas. About 20% of the labour force work in industry, more than 30% in the public sector, and only 4% in agriculture. The central and southern parts of Sweden are the most densely populated. However, as the area of Sweden is large, the overall density is only 54 inhabitants per square mile (20 per km²). For many years, Sweden was ethnically very homogeneous. One special exception is an ethnic and linguistic minority in the north, 15,000 of the Sami people (Lapps), some of whom still make their living by herding reindeer. During the 1960s and 1970s more than half a million immigrants moved to Sweden to work, mostly people from Finland but also people from the Balkan countries, Greece and other countries. In addition, Sweden has received refugees from many troubled corners of the world and still receives refugees in acute need of protection.

Language
Swedish belongs to the North Germanic branch of the Germanic languages, along with Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, and Faroese, and is the largest of the Nordic languages. In addition to the people living in Sweden, Swedish is today spoken by about 300,000 Finns in Finland. Some 300,000 Swedish immigrants in the United States and Canada can also speak Swedish. English is taught as a second language in Sweden and most people can speak and understand English. Quite a few Swedes can also get along well in German and some in French or Spanish.

Climate
Sweden is located so far north in Europe that the Arctic Circle slices through its northernmost province, Lapland. But it is not an Arctic country. Thanks to the warm Gulf Stream in the Atlantic, Sweden has a rather mild climate considering its location. The difference between the southern and northern parts of Sweden is slight during the summer but greater during the other seasons. Northern Sweden is snow-covered at least between December and March, while elsewhere it varies from region to region. In the far south it often rains during the winter season. In Uppsala seasons are very distinct from one another:

- Autumn begins in late September and brings colder weather and shorter days but also beautiful color changes of the leaves.
- Winter with the first snow in early December brightens up the country although the days get even shorter (at the shortest 6 hours of daylight). The average temperature in February is -3°C (26°F), although it may vary a lot from one day to another.
- Spring, with its longer days and spring flowers that everybody longs for, arrives in March-April. In Sweden, and especially in Uppsala, we celebrate the arrival of spring, the so-called Valborgsmössafovtan (Walpurgis Night), on April 30.
- Summer lasts in general from May to mid-September, with an average temperature in July of 18°C (64°F). It is the season with long days when in June the sun does not set until 10 p.m. and rises at 2.30 a.m., which means that it really does not get dark at all. In the far north, above the Arctic Circle, the sun never sets during this time.

Traveling while in Sweden
The nearest airport to the Uppsala campus, Stockholm Arlanda International Airport, is actually closer to Uppsala than to Stockholm. About 20 minutes away, flying out of Arlanda is a snap. Low cost airlines like SAS, German Wings, Air Berlin, easyjet, FlyNiki, and more all fly out of Stockholm. Just a few destinations which are a short flight away include: Vienna, Milan, Cologne, Krakow, Geneva, Hanover, Amsterdam, and London.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nearby large cities</th>
<th>Travel time by train from the Uppsala campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oslo, Norway</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
<td>5 1/2 hours</td>
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Housing
Stay in the "Cornell Room" at SLU! Not only is the housing provided free of charge, you'll have a bit of Cornell with you -- even in Sweden! Go here for other housing options. Since the housing grant is limited, we will fill the spots on a first-come, first-awarded basis.

Student visa
a) If you are from an EU/EEA member state or Switzerland you do not have to apply for a visa. A valid travel document (passport or identity card) for your entry into and your stay in Sweden is sufficient.
b) If you are from a non-EU or EEA country and are planning to stay for less than 6 months you need a residence and travel visa D+C (Aufenthalts- und Reisevisum D+C). This visa has to be applied for at the Austrian Embassy/Consulate in your home country before you leave.
c) If you are from a non-EU or EEA country and are planning to stay for more than 6 months you need a residence permit "student" (Aufenthaltsbewilligung Studierenden), which you have to obtain from the Swedish embassy/consulate in your home country before you leave.

Student union
Like all students at any Swedish university, students at SLU have to be members of a students’ union. The compulsory membership applies for students in basic educational programmes as well as for postgraduate students. At SLU there are eight different students’ unions and you will be a member of one of them depending on which programme you have chosen.

The students’ unions are organisations driven by students for students. One of the most important responsibilities of the students’ union is to represent the members towards the university and the departments and to work in the best interest of the students. Through the students’ union you can make your voice heard so that the content and quality of the education is improved continuously. Student representatives take part in preparing and deciding organs at different levels at the university. If decisions are made at university level that affects the education, students have the right to be a part of the decision making.

The students’ unions and its organisations arrange lots of activities, among these are traditional dinners, student plays, all kinds of sport activities, international activities and choirs.

**Employment**

Exchange students who are citizens of EU and Scandinavian countries are free to take a job at any time while in Sweden without a work permit. All foreign nationals who are registered students at a Swedish University are also allowed to work, as long as they have a valid residence permit. For further information: www.migrationsverket.se/english.html.

**Health insurance**

A health insurance policy is provided by SLU, or you may choose to take your own country insurance.

**Arriving in Sweden**

Uppsala is 30-40 minutes from Stockholm and can easily be reached from Stockholm-Arlanda International airport and there are frequent communications from the 3 other international airports in or around Stockholm. Please be sure to obtain Swedish Krona (SEK) when you arrive in Sweden as Euros are not accepted in Sweden.

**Orientation "Welcome Days"**

The Orientation Week for international students is organized by the Uppsala Student Union and the International Committee. It takes place one week before the start of the semester, the exact dates vary. During this week you can get a temporary student id-card which allows you to enter the Nations. You can also participate in activities and get a good tour of the town and see what the student life has to offer you in Uppsala. It is also an excellent way to make new friends.

**Financial aid**

If you are currently receiving financial aid, your package will be adjusted based on your determined level of need and the projected costs for your exchange program.