



INTERNATIONAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

– for SLU students and graduates

Towards a
sustainable
world

Internship
Junior Professional
Employment

5 types of
employers

33 relevant
employers

8 pieces
of advice

TOOLS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

The aim of this brochure is to provide advice to those interested in pursuing an international career, as well as provide a list of potential employers working in the field of global development. You can also read interviews with SLU alumni about how they designed their careers.

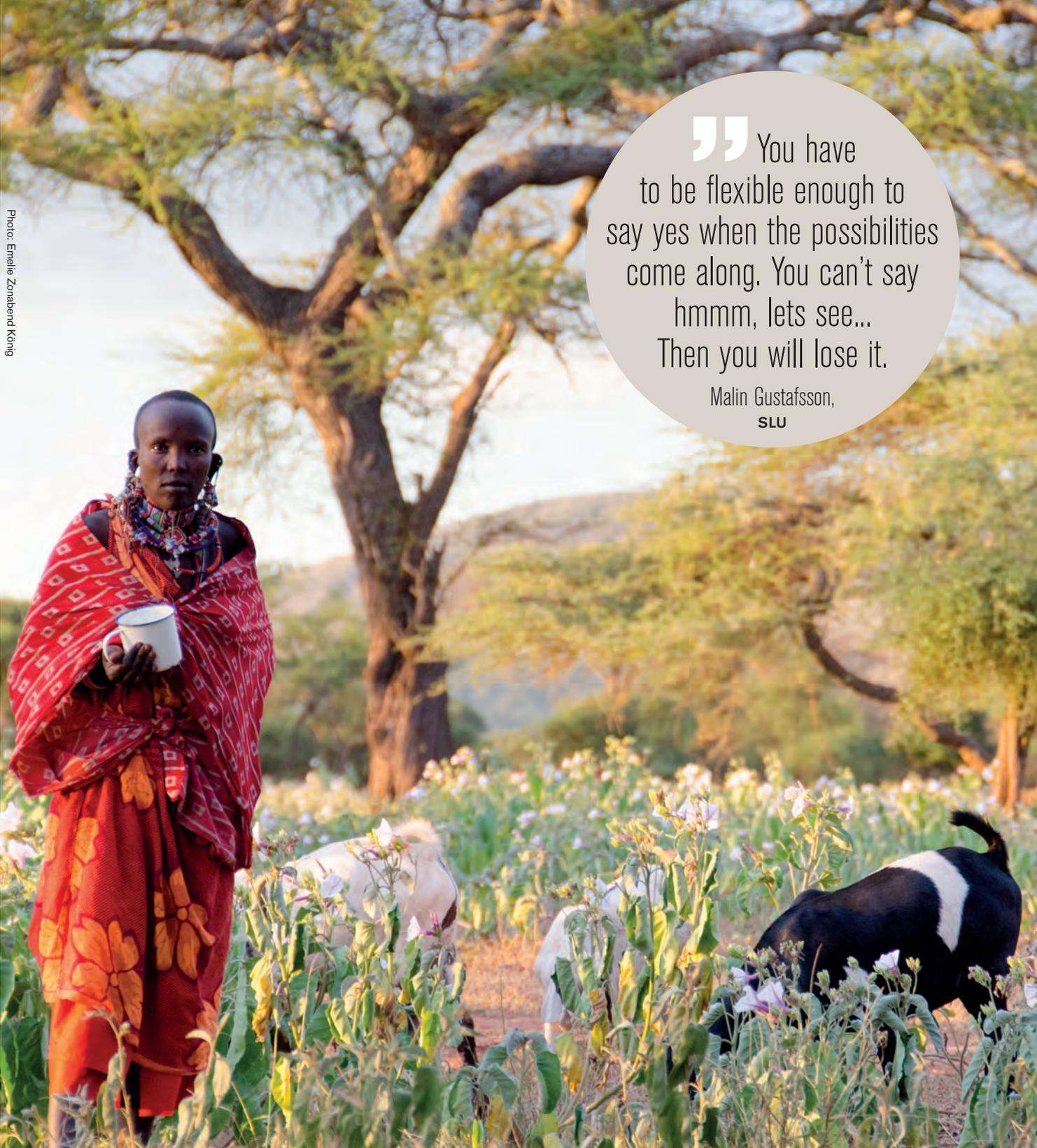
International jobs, where are they?

Global Development involves numerous different branches and varied stakeholders. Many organizations, companies, municipalities and other public organizations are working with the joint Global Development Goals. Today, global development work is conducted as much in the North as in the South. Development is less and less an insider's club and presents opportunities for new forms of cooperation and exchanges. If you're a committed student or professional, there's a place for you in this field. This brochure shows a selection of relevant organizations offering internships, junior professional positions and conventional employment for graduates from SLU. In addition to those presented here, there are various other potential employers who can offer an international career.

SLU for a sustainable future

SLU Global strives to ensure continued contributions to a sustainable future from the entire SLU system. Competences gained through the educational programmes offered at SLU are central to many of the work processes needed for a sustainable global future. Already today, a large portion of the research done at SLU is carried out in collaboration with colleagues from low-income countries and multilateral institutions. SLU Global is established at SLU to implement the university's strategy for global development and poverty alleviation. The Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI) is a member-based network that supports and promotes Swedish expertise on sustainable food security and nutrition, in line with the Swedish Government's policy on global development. This information leaflet is published in cooperation between SLU Global and SIANI.

Photo: Emelie Zornabend König



” You have to be flexible enough to say yes when the possibilities come along. You can't say hmmm, lets see... Then you will lose it.

Malin Gustafsson,
SLU



Photo: Margarita Cuevas

Study Sustainably at SLU

SLU offers a variety of master programmes with a sustainable focus. All but one are taught in English. In spring 2018, SLU will launch the International Course Package (IKP). The package consists of two courses (7,5+7,5 credits), which are compulsory for students wanting to incorporate the international course package titled "Global Development, Natural Resources and Livelihoods" in their MSc degree.

FIND YOUR EMPLOYER

There are countless employers who offer employment focusing on a sustainable world. Below are 33 examples of potential employers, divided into five different categories: governmental organizations, nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), private companies, institutes, and intergovernmental organizations. In addition to a brief description of each organization, it is also indicated which type of position(s) they offer: Internships (marked with a flower), junior professional employment (marked with a sun) and/or conventional employment.

 – Offers Internship  – Offers Junior Professional Employment

Governmental organizations

Organizations working on behalf of the Swedish Parliament and Government.

These positions may require Swedish citizenship, a permanent residence permit or residence in Sweden for at least one year. Information about specific requirements are available on the organization's website.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), is

a government agency with a mission to reduce poverty in the world. Sida employs both at the head office in Stockholm and at Swedish Embassies.

Sida offers a Bilateral Biträdande Expert (BBE) program, which prepares young graduates for employment in international development. There are various possible locations for BBE: One can be located at an organization/authority in a partner country, at a Swedish consulting company, agency or organization operating in a partner country, or at a Swedish embassy. Applicants can be a maximum of 32 years at the time of application and must have at least two years of relevant working experience. The appointment is for two years with possibility of extension for a third year.

Sida also offers Junior Professional

Officer (JPO) employment. The JPO programme provides young graduates the opportunity to work within international organizations located in a number of UN organizations, the World Bank and other international global organizations. Sida has around 45 JPOs with about 30 percent working at Sida's headquarters and 70 percent stationed at various field offices around the world. Applicants cannot be older than 32 years at the time of applying and must have at least two years of relevant working experience (international work is an advantage). In addition to English having knowledge of another UN language (French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese or Russian) is highly advantageous.

Sida's head office in Stockholm hosts a number of interns each semester. Internships span five months

” There are a high number of applications for internships at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU, so it is important to stand out from the other applicants.

Gustav Svenungsson,
Permanent Representation
of Sweden to the EU



and aim at involving trainees as much as possible in everyday tasks. The application process is handled by the Swedish Development Forum (Föreningen för utvecklingsfrågor; FUF)



Swedish EU Representation in Brussels

The Swedish EU Representation in Brussels is the largest governmental Representation abroad. The Swedish EU Representation provides internships working with different sectors of international development. One of the sectors is "Agriculture and Fisheries". Interns actively participate in ongoing activities, which include preparing documents, writing reports, assisting in task force meetings, and monitoring the work of relevant EU institutions.



Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs – MFA

Every year the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs convenes a Diplomat Programme, a trainee platform that prepares aspiring Swedish diplomats for work at embassies abroad and at the Ministry in Stockholm. The programme is primarily aimed at recent graduates with good language skills and a couple of years of internationally oriented experience in the form of studies, training or work.



” Participating in YPARD already as a student is a good idea. One can make blog posts and develop new contacts.

Lovisa Neikter,
SLU

Swedish Embassies

It is possible to do internships at several of Sweden's embassies. Normally, the training period is 20 weeks. Each embassy manages its own application process.



Non-governmental organizations – NGOs

An NGO is a not-for-profit organization that is independent from governmental organizations and private companies.

Globalportalen

Globalportalen is a website where several Swedish development organizations, educational associations and Folkhögskolor post information about global development issues. The website provides listings of available internships, jobs and volunteer opportunities in civil society organizations.



Vi-Skogen

Vi-Skogen is a Swedish NGO focused on planting trees in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. Vi-Skogen has some ten employees at the head office in Stockholm, but also expatriate staff in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The organization offers a number of internships in East Africa each year.

WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest conservation organizations, running about 1,300 projects at one time working with various development and sustainability related issues. People from around the world are involved in WWF projects, which focus on building a future where humans live in harmony with nature. The WWF country office is located in Solna.

We Effect

We Effect is a Swedish development organization that focuses on rural development, housing, gender equality

and access to land. The organization is headquartered in Stockholm and has regional offices in different parts of the world. We Effect offers a six month internship programme where trainees gain valuable international experience and first-hand understanding of development cooperation.



Naturskyddsföreningen

Naturskyddsföreningen, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) collaborates with global networks and local organizations worldwide. SSNC supports over 60 environmental organizations around the world. The organization offers limited internships.



The Federation of Swedish Farmers – LRF

The Federation of Swedish Farmers works with both local and international issues related to political influence, external reconnaissance and global development. LRF is part of the international organization, World Farmers' Organization (WFO).

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières improves access to veterinary care and livestock markets. The NGO trains local farmers, expands access to forage supplies and improves water and grazing management.

Private companies

Many companies are currently working on issues related to global sustainability and the SDGs. Here are some private companies that may be relevant for graduates from SLU.

Ramböl

Ramböl is an international consulting company with headquarters in Den-

mark. Ramböl's work focuses on the environment, water and energy.

Orgut

Orgut is an international consulting company working with a range of practices promoting inclusive and pro-poor market development, agriculture, forestry and climate change adaptation. Their head office is located in Stockholm.

Pöyry

Pöyry, based in Finland, operates in the energy and infrastructure sectors. The company is involved in over 200 power projects worldwide in bioenergy, waste-to-energy, wind power, solar power and geothermal energy.

Sweco

Sweco is one of the larger European engineering consultancy companies, working within the fields of water, energy, infrastructure and environment. They consult on construction, architecture, and environmental engineering projects.

Based out of Sweden, the company works on assignments in 70 countries and has thousands of employees with a variety of backgrounds and experience.

Niras

Niras is a consulting company that provides technical assistance and project management for development programmes. They work with environmental sustainability, renewable energy, climate change, forestry, land administration, rural livelihoods, and agriculture and food systems. Niras is based in Denmark, with an office in Stockholm as well.

Hifab International

Hifab International is an integrated part of Hifab AB, focusing on projects in Asia, Africa and Europe. Working with infrastructure development, rural development, water supply, and education, they have permanent representation in Bangladesh and Kenya, as well as several project offices throughout the world.

Minor Field Studies – MFS

MFS is a scholarship that Sida finances addressed to students at the undergraduate level. The purpose of MFS is to provide Swedish students opportunities to acquire knowledge in developing countries and development. MFS is a travel grant for a small field study of at least eight consecutive weeks as the basis for a C alternative D dissertation or thesis at the corresponding level. Every year SLU awards approximately 25 MFS scholarships.

ÅF

ÅF is an engineering and consulting company working within the energy, industrial and infrastructure sectors. While primarily based in Europe, the company does some work with development projects in emerging countries. They have offices in more than 30 countries around the world with their head office in Sweden.

Institutes

Institutes are non-profit organizations, often engaged in research.

The Stockholm Environment Institute – SEI

SEI is an international non-profit research organization that works with environmental and development issues. While SEI frequently hosts interns, they do not have a global application process for these positions. To inquire about an internship, initiate contact directly with someone at SEI working on projects related to your area of interest.



The World Resource Institute – WRI

WRI is organized around six relevant themes: climate, energy, food, forests, water, and sustainable cities. Based in Washington DC, WRI offers many internships opportunities throughout the year at their head office as well as at their international offices. In

2015, trainees from 19 different countries were represented in internships at WRI.



The International Institute for Environment and Development – IIED

IIED is an independent policy research organisation based in the UK and is active on five continents through an extended network of partners. IIED takes a limited number of interns per year.



The Stockholm International Water Institute – SIWI

SIWI provides and promotes water wise solutions for sustainable development in the areas of water governance, transboundary water management, and through international policy processes. SIWI intermittently offers internships, check their website for updates.



The International Institute for Sustainable Development – IISD

IISD is a policy and action research organisation, based in London and working in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. IISD is engaged in projects within the areas of climate change, human settlements, natural resources and sustainable markets. The organization takes a limited number of interns each year.



CGIAR

CGIAR is a global research organization dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resource management and ecosystem services. Research is carried out by 15 CGIAR centres in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations, and the private sector.

The Center for International Forestry Research – CIFOR

CIFOR is a non-profit, global research organization dedicated to advancing human well-being, environmental conservation and equity. Based in Indonesia, they partner with a variety of development and research organizations and offer international positions as well as internships.

The International Livestock Research Institute – ILRI

ILRI is an international research institute based in Kenya. The organization works with partners worldwide on issues related to livestock, food security, and poverty alleviation, principally in Africa and Asia.

”To be employed by Sida it is generally a prerequisite to have experience working in a development context.

Mirjam Palm,
Sida

Intergovernmental organizations

Organizations composed of sovereign states or of other inter-governmental organizations.

The World Organisation for Animal Health – OIE

OIE is an intergovernmental organization committed to improving animal health worldwide. They have five regional commissions that address specific problems in different regions of the world. The organization accepts a limited number of trainees for internships spanning from one to six months at OIE headquarters or at the OIE regional offices.



The International Labour Organization – ILO

ILO is a UN agency devoted to promoting social justice and labour rights and also works with the rural economy. By growing the voice of rural people, promoting diversified livelihoods, and better integrating small farmers into value chains, the ILO is working to increase the overall resilience of rural communities. Every year a limited number of places for internships are available.



The International Fund for Agricultural Development – IFAD

IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. IFAD provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries to finance innovative agricultural and rural development programmes and projects. The organization offers internships for women and men under the age of 32 who hold an advanced university degree in a relevant discipline, such as agriculture, nutrition, economics, political science, etc. Candidates

must have at least two years of post-degree professional experience, a working knowledge of English, as well as proficiency in one of IFAD's other official languages (Arabic, French or Spanish).



The World Food Programme – WFP

WFP is a UN agency working with humanitarian assistance in disaster and conflict situations. The agency is active in 80 countries and constantly posts new job offers on their website. An internship at WFP is a great opportunity to acquire practical work experience while contributing to reaching the SDG of “Zero Hunger”.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – FAO

FAO facilitates partnerships between governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector around issues related to food and nutrition security, agriculture, and rural development. The FAO recruits staff on fixed-term or temporary contracts and also employs consultants, interns and volunteers to assist with special projects and short-term recruitment needs. The organization offers several options at its headquarters in Rome and its decentralized offices worldwide to provide hands-on opportunities for students or young graduates to learn more about the organization's work. Internships are from three months to a maximum period of six months. Applicants must be 30 years or younger.



United Nations (in general)

Over the years, the United Nations has increased its presence in locations around the world. There are over 130 field offices working with various development goals generating a need for different professional competences. The UN runs over 40

programmes, funds, specialised agencies, and related organisations – each with their own website. Most UN bodies offer internship programmes wherein the objective of the internship is to give a first-hand impression of the day-to-day working environment of the United Nations.



The European Commission and the European External Action Service – EC & EEAS

EC & EEAS offers a Junior Professionals in Delegation (JPD) programme, which provides an opportunity to highly qualified junior professionals from EU Member States to work in EU delegations worldwide. The aim of the programme is to enable young people

opportunities to gain first-hand experience in the work of delegations and an in-depth understanding of their role in the implementation of EU external policies. Every 18 months, the EEAS and EC hold an open call for expressions of interest. For the current 2016–17 term, there are 75 young professionals posted in different delegations throughout Europe.



Platforms

Provides information about job opportunities in various types of organizations and companies

Arbetsförmedlingen

The Swedish Employment Service Agency is a member of the European EURES network and works exclusively with conveying jobs in the EU and European Economic Area (EEA). Search for "Work abroad" on the agency's homepage.

EURES

EURES is the European job mobility portal where you can search for jobs and register your CV.

DevnetJobs

DevnetJobs is an internet platform covering international development recruiters globally. You can sign up for weekly email updates.

Bond

Bond lists job and volunteer opportunities in the UK and internationally. Bond is a membership platform for over 450 organisations working in international development.

UNjobfinder

UNjobfinder gathers vacancies from more than 1,000 international organizations and covers positions in all UN organizations, international financial institutions, the European Union and several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

YPARD

YPARD is not a formalized institution, but a movement operating as a network. On their website, YPARD lists job opportunities all over the globe as well as conferences, events, and other networking opportunities.

Swedish Development Forum – Föreningen för utvecklingsfrågor – FUF

FUF offers internships to students enrolled in a Swedish university or college in a specific internship course offered by the university (high-level education programs in Sweden often include such a course in bachelor and master programmes). FUF offers about 60 positions each year at organizations, authorities and institutions throughout Sweden.



Devex

Devex is a media platform for the global development community, providing recruiting and business development services for the international development sector.

Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative – SIANI

SIANI is a multi-sector platform with more than 1,600 active members working to advance knowledge and best practices that enhance food security and sustainable agriculture. One of the thematic areas, SIANI Youth, aims to engage young people and professionals interested in the SDGs and topics related to agriculture and food security. SIANI offers traineeships either through FUF or by contacting the secretariat directly.

How to prepare

ADVICE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Eight essential tips for those who want to make an international career are presented. In addition, meet four inspiring SLU students and alumni involved in international sustainable development.

Develop your global engagement!

During your studies it is important to search for internships or participate in organizations involved in international development. Generally, it is an advantage to already have shown an interest and gained experiences from an international environment when you begin to look for jobs. If you don't have anything related to international issues in your CV, it can be much harder to get an international job.

Have patience!

It is difficult and tedious to search for and find jobs in the international sector. But it is possible if you have patience. Do not expect to get your dream job right away, and be prepared to search for jobs in many different organizations. Consider volunteering for a global/development organization to gain international experience.

” After all, we recruit in slightly different ways. Above all are we looking for consultants who can contribute to the missions we work with. We have a great need for a good and strong resource base with different thematic expertise.

Anna Liljelund Hedqvist,
Niras

VETERINARY



Johanna Lindahl, **Scientist at International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya**

Why did you want an international career? I have always been interested in and liked to travel to new places. I have always liked challenges; specifically related to tropical regions. From a veterinary science point of view, my main interest is infectious tropical diseases. I did my master abroad in Central America and I was a volunteer in South America. That raised my interest in global development. Towards the end of my university studies I looked for different PhD positions. I found one containing work in developing countries. I applied for it and I got it.

What are you currently working with? Today I am a scientist and I work leading and coordinating a number of research programmes in Kenya where I live, and also in other countries. I manage projects in Kenya, Ethiopia, India, and Vietnam.

What do you most enjoy about your job? My job is always challenging. Sometimes in a frustrating way and sometimes in a funny way. I learn a lot of things and there's always something new to learn. I have met so many people – from poor farmers to ministers. I have had a lot of opportunities to see more things and places than I thought could be possible. In addition, I believe that my work also makes a difference.

How should students at SLU today prepare themselves for an international career? I think one should follow one's interest. One can also get involved in international issues during the study period. I took an extra evening class in animal husbandry in tropical countries just because I was interested in that. I was volunteering a lot and I was also engaging in different groups in Uppsala as a student. Daring to leave the security of Sweden and take the chance to go abroad, may be complicated and may be challenging, but it's always worth it in the end.

Combining areas of knowledge!

Undergraduate education sub-focuses are important, but rarely a decisive factor in employment. For example, as a forester, it might be advantageous to also take courses concerning forests in tropical areas; to pair agronomy with gender studies may be a good combination; or linking veterinary science with business management could give you an edge.

If you are serious about an international career, it is always valuable to complement your primary area of study with courses in development studies, international relations, or other relevant topics.

Highlight your strengths and unique skills!

For your application to stand out from the crowd and land you an interview, you must clearly demonstrate your relevant experience and your motivation should be easy to follow. Your cover letter should highlight your strengths and unique skills and communicate why you are interested in the position, how you meet the qualification requirements, as well as demonstrate your relevant experience.

Get work experience!

It is often necessary to have a few years of work experience before you can get a conventional job within the field of global development – employment opportunities rarely go to recent graduates. Because the international context is often complicated when it comes to decision making, processes and analysis, employers are looking for candidates with concrete experience in professional situations. Improve your chances of getting hired by attaining experience through an internship, volunteer position, or field study in an international context.

Learn more languages!

Knowing English is generally a necessity for an international career. Often, it is an advantage to be able to speak one of the major global languages such as Chinese, French, Spanish, Portuguese, or Arabic. Consider staying a few months in a country and taking an intensive course in that language as a way to learn a foreign language and make yourself more attractive to international employers.



AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE STUDENT

Why did you apply for an internship at the Permanent Swedish Representation to the EU (Reppen)? I wrote my Bachelor thesis on EU agricultural policy. Then I felt that I wanted to do something other than study for a while. One evening I sat and Googled internships. I saw that the Swedish Representation in Brussels offers internships and that one could apply for different policy areas. I wrote that I was interested in agricultural issues and that it was close to my thesis. So, I had the privilege to be admitted.

What are you doing? The largest and most important task I have is to write reports to the Swedish Government Office in Stockholm. I am writing reports about what is said at meetings of the Special Committee of Agriculture, what is said at the meeting of the Agriculture Committee in the European Parliament and from various seminars. I write reports to Sweden on what different countries' representatives think on various issues. Then, I also write newsletters.

The work you do, how is it linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? The Swedish Government wants the agriculture politics to go hand in hand with the SDGs. So the goals are guiding the design of Swedish positions, which in turn affect the work we do and also my work. For example, in the newsletters I can choose to write about certain aspects related to the SDGs.



Gustaf Svenungsson, Intern at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in Brussels

What have been the benefits for you? I have developed a whole lot of contacts with people from Sweden and other countries. I've learned how it is to work for Sweden and how to do this on a global level. I also meet so many other trainees. Here at Reppen there are seven other interns, next semester there will be 15 interns. And it's fun to live in a new city. I also have time to travel to different parts of Belgium.

Does it give a taste for an international career? Yes, it does. It's very fun to work abroad. It's a completely different world. I feel I'm contributing to something positive. It would also be exciting to work at larger organizations, like the EU or the UN.

AGRONOMIST

How did your interest in international issues arise? I got involved quite early in the Red Cross Youth Movement, including in international issues. It was something that was quite attractive. Later on, when I studied agronomy, I took a course called "Technology in Developing Countries" which wet my appetite [for working in developing countries]. That, combined with fortuitous, circumstances made the doors open for me. After graduation, I worked in Sweden for two years on what was then called the Agricultural Technical Institute (JTI). As I sat on JTI, an advertisement turned up about a JPO position related to agricultural technology in Southern Africa. I talked to my wife, who was also interested in international issues, applied for the position, and I got it. So in 1993 we moved to Zimbabwe where I worked as a JPO for FAO. It was really exciting and fun in every way.

How did you get a job with Sida? Meanwhile, during my time as a JPO I told Sida that I wanted to come to the head office and present my work. So, after Zimbabwe I reported to Sida, because it was Swedish tax money that financed my salary. Someone at Sida remembered me, because one late night in the middle of the winter,



Ola Möller, Working at Sida

they called me up and asked if I wanted to take a temporary position at Sida. And I said yes! Since then I have been working at Sida. I have for many years worked abroad in embassies in Vietnam and Thailand. Now I work at Sida's head office in Stockholm.

What is it like to work in international development? I feel fortunate. This has been a tremendous journey. The job provides wonderful opportunities to get out and meet people. I'm working with rural development, so I have to get out and meet people in their everyday lives. I meet new friends, we share evening supper and I listen to their stories.

If possible, get a research education!

For a lot of international positions a research education is a good basis. Even though you don't want to work with research the rest of your life, having a PhD may open the door for you in many international organizations and companies.

” Large organizations and institutions often have well established recruitment processes with career days, recruitment events, etc. It is useful to follow these organizations on various social media to stay current on internship announcements, jobs, and recruitment events.

Ghada M. Ramez
Arbetsförmedlingen



Develop your network!

Having the right connections can be crucial both to obtaining information about existing job offers and for getting the job. Cultivate relationships by participating in networks and meetings where international issues are discussed. Develop a presence by physically participating in recruitment meetings, conferences and events, and through digital networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook and YPARD.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 Goals include areas such as climate change, zero hunger, sustainable consumption, and gender equality. An education from SLU will qualify you to work with many of these goals. There is a high demand for professionals with an education in fields such as agronomy, forestry, sustainable energy, and veterinary medicine.

The knowledge developed within SLU's educational programmes can be seen as relevant for work towards all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The relation is clear between agriculture and Goal Number Two: "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture". Global actors such as the FAO are increasingly promoting sustainable development through integrated environmentally friendly agricultural approaches, such as agro-ecology and climate-smart agriculture. We can also see a direct relationship between SLU's degree programmes and what is needed to run processes aimed at achieving Goal Number 13, which targets climate change and its impacts. Programmes at SLU are also visibly related to Goal Number 11, designed

to support positive links between urban and rural areas.

Another important objective constituting the basis for an international career is Goal Number Five, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The economic empowerment of women and their role in agricultural value chains and markets is receiving increased attention. The agriculture sector in many developing countries is underperforming partly because women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive. The gender gap imposes real costs on society in terms of lost agricultural output, food security and economic growth. Empowering women is key to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the global agricultural workforce. Involving wo-

men not only enhances production, but also advances secondary results such as improved family health and children's education. A focus on gender in agriculture requires special attention to workload balance, women's rights and expression, children's education and access to technology and innovation.

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.



Photo: Enelle Zornbend König



BIOLOGIST



Malin Gustafsson, Worked at FAO in Rome

You have worked in Botswana, Italy and in Malaysia.

How come? After high-school I chose a programme at The University of Gothenburg that had an international focus. I just knew that I wanted to work with international affairs. I also took a tropical ecology course at the Ecology Department at SLU in Uppsala. When it was time for my master thesis, I applied for an MFS and I got it. So I spent about three months in Botswana studying mammal communities. We were three Swedish girls driving around in a Toyota jeep over the savanna, sleeping in tent in surroundings with wild lions. Super exciting, fun and scary.

Later on, through contacts I got the opportunity to work six months as a volunteer at FAO in Rome. Moneywise, it was a difficult time, but it was an awesome period for networking and learning about how a large organization works. After my volunteer period, the FAO wanted to hire me. But the FAO has a quarantine period of six months. So I worked for six months as trainee at the organization Bioversity International at their head office in Rome. Then I got a contract at the Forestry Department at FAO. I stayed there for a little more than one year.

What have been the most interesting parts about working at FAO? To work at the headquarters of a big UN agency is very interesting. I also had the chance to build a big global network. Today my contacts can inform me about interesting calls that appear in different parts of the world. I learned a lot of things that I can use in order to decide where I want to work in the future.

What did you do after your work for FAO? While I was in the FAO, I received information about the possibility of starting a PhD position at SLU focusing on rainforest restoration in Borneo. I applied for the PhD position and got it. So, I moved from Rome to SLU in Umeå where I lived for three and a half years. During that time I travelled to Borneo seven times and spent about ten months there. Now I'm done with my PhD and I am thinking of where in the world I want to go next.

Potential International Employers

This brochure presents 33 potential employers and tips on what you may need to consider if you want to build an international career. You can also read about how some SLU alumni developed international careers.

Global Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 goals

focus on themes including climate change, zero hunger, sustainable consumption and gender equality. With an education from SLU you can work with several of these goals.

There is an immense need for professionals with educational backgrounds in fields such as agronomy, forestry, sustainable energy, and veterinary medicine.

Prepare yourself

Consider the following key points of advice when building an international career:

- ✿ Get work experience
- ✿ Develop your global engagement
- ✿ Have patience
- ✿ Highlight your strengths and unique skills
- ✿ If possible, get a research education
- ✿ Develop your network
- ✿ Learn additional languages
- ✿ Combine knowledge areas



SLU Global

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences has its main locations in Uppsala, Umeå and Alnarp.
Tel: +46 18 67 10 00, global@slu.se
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SIANI

Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative
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www.instagram.com/sianiagri