

MAKING SCIENCE MATTER - INCREASING THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS (3 ECT)

29th Oct-1st November, 2019 Ekenäs Herrgård

This course strives to improve the communication skills of PhD students in ecology and environmental biology, and thereby facilitate information transfer between academia and society at large. The course is a collaborative initiative between the *Doctoral Programme in Wildlife Biology research LUOVA* (University of Helsinki) and the *Research School Ecology – basics and applications* (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences).

Teachers include:

Dr. Mar Cabeza, University of Helsinki, course leader

Prof. Tomas Roslin, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, course leader

Prof. Corey Bradshaw, Flinders University, Australia

MSc. Emma Marris, freelance writer and author, USA

Dr. Tuomas Aivelo, University of Helsinki

Objectives: In the best of all possible worlds, scientific results from research in ecology and environmental biology should play a significant role in any decision related to natural resources. Nevertheless, most PhD students in ecology and environmental biology receive little or no training in communicating with the relevant stakeholders. This course attempts to narrow this gap. By the end of the course, we hope that the students will be able to:

- identify the importance of communicating with different stakeholders, and reflect on the extent to which communication is part of their professional vocation
- discover extant channels for disseminating results
- recognize differences in the background skills and information needs of different audiences
- be able to market themselves as researchers

Approach: the programme will be based on traditional lectures blended with interactive, hands-on workshops. Students will work both individually (e.g. preparing a press release from own research outcomes) and in groups (preparing a citizen science project or a class for secondary school). Especial attention will be paid to practice interactions with the media, and to pimp student's online profiles.

Venue and costs: This intensive course will be hosted at **Ekenäs herrgård, in Sweden Tuesday October 29 to Friday November 1**. Accommodation (full-board) is covered for all students. Bus transportation from Uppsala through Stockholm to the venue is also arranged and covered by the course.

For students from the organizing graduate schools (LUOVA and Ecology – basics and applications), additional transportation (e.g. from Helsinki to Stockholm) is also arranged and covered.

For whom? This course is aimed at PhD students in ecology, environmental biology and conservation genetics. To make real use of it, we expect that you are already working on a well-defined topic with potential application to real-world issues. While

this applied dimension can be either theoretical or already realised, part of the course will aim at formulating practical recommendations from your own results.

Pre-course preparatory exercises

Note that the course will require 3 preparatory exercises that you will need to work on between **Monday September 23rd** [when we will communicate whether you have been accepted to the course] and **Monday October 21st**. During this time you will need to reserve at least 2-3 full working days to acquaint yourself with relevant background material and to prepare the exercises. Before applying, make sure that you can find this time. The exercises will include preparing draft texts and plans for the course, which you may then improve during the course. You will get detailed instructions and supporting material with the acceptance letter.

Examination. The course is completed by successfully participating in and returning all exercises assigned before and during the course on a scale fail/pass.

Enrolment: The number of participating students is restricted to 20. The course is open to any PhD student within the relevant fields, but priority will be given to members of contributing doctoral programmes: the Research School *Ecology - basics and applications*, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and the *Doctoral programme in wildlife biology research - LUOVA*, University of Helsinki.

Participants for the course will be chosen based on one-page application letters. Registration opens on 6.9.2019 and closes 20.9.2019. To apply, please fill in this **e-form** <https://elomake.helsinki.fi/lomakkeet/99738/lomake.html>