



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

## Interested in conducting your masterwork in Arizona?

Thanks to a recently established cooperation between SLU and Northern Arizona University we can offer a unique opportunity for students to conduct their fieldwork in Arizona.

### Ecology of foundation cottonwood trees in relation to climate

We look for several motivated candidates interested in exploring novel aspects of the effects of climate change on riparian ecosystem function and biodiversity. This is an excellent opportunity to work with International leaders in community ecology, climate change, and restoration and work in beautiful settings including Canyonlands Research Center (<http://canyonlandsresearchcenter.org/>) and wild deserts throughout the American Southwest. Also visit the Adaptive Restoration Community on Facebook.

You will be able to design your specific project based on your interests but in line with an ongoing 12,000 tree research project. This research includes examining how climate change impacts cottonwood physiology and associated communities from microbes, to insects, to birds. The 'common garden' approach used here is the first project in the world to examine the impacts of climate change to communities and ecosystem processes. The common garden approach is where trees from different locations are propagated in different environments. For instance, we can take a seed or a cutting from a tree located in a cool climate and grow that seedling in a warmer environment that represents climate change. The tree may benefit from transfer to a warmer environment or it may be maladapted to the warmer conditions. We are interested in how the tree response to being moved to differing climates impacts both the tree and the biodiverse community associated with it.

You will have the opportunity to interact with master students, postdocs and senior scientist from Northern Arizona University working on connecting projects. Once all practical work in Arizona is completed you will continue your work in Sweden by analyzing your data, compile a written report of your work and present it at a seminar.

Please contact Petter Axelsson for further information 0730-710194

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### FOREST BIOCORE

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