



GÖTEBORG UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

2010-03-17 Ref nr B 311 138/10

University of Gothenburg, Faculty of Science announces:

Ph.D. student position-doctoral grant in Natural Science, specialising
Environmental Science;
at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences

Engineered nanoparticles (ENPs) have specific properties that are significantly different from those of the corresponding bulk materials. Increasing evidence shows that there is a risk that ENPs might have adverse effects on human health and the environment. We are inviting applications for a Ph.D. position in a multidisciplinary project in which we investigate whether conventional risk assessment approaches are valid for assessing the impact of ENPs on aquatic ecosystems or whether (and which) adaptations are necessary.

As part of the Ph.D. project a case study will be carried out, in which the toxicity of engineered silver, zinkoxid and titaniumdioxid nanoparticles to aquatic bacteria, microalgae and ecological communities of these will be determined. Emphasis will be on the chronic, long-term effects of the ENPs on various levels of biological complexity using a range of endpoints such as growth and species composition (determined e.g. as pigment profiles or TGGE patterns). All experiments will be backed up by state-of-the art analytical tools (e.g. light scattering, field-flow fractionation, ICP-MS, voltammetry and electron microscopy).

The project is funded by the Swedish Research Council (FORMAS) and the EU Commission.

We are looking for a motivated Ph.D. student to participate in this project, starting in spring 2010. As an applicant you should have an excellent ability and motivation to work as part of a research team but also to conduct your own, independent research.

Qualifications

Candidates must have a Master of Science degree or equivalent in ecotoxicology, environmental microbiology, ecology or a related field. Practical experience with ecotoxicological investigations in the lab and/or in the field is required, as is a solid working knowledge in written and spoken English. Previous work on the ecotoxicology or toxicology of metal nanoparticles (Ag, TiO₂, ZnO) is a huge plus and proven knowledge in environmental statistics, modelling or environmental chemistry is an additional bonus.

Terms of employment

The position runs for four years and includes one year of academic education (Ph.D. courses, 60 ECTS). The first two years are going to be financed via a stipend from the University (utbildningsbidrag), while the last 2 years are financed as a Ph.D. position. Usually 20% teaching and/or course administration are expected which extends the contract by one year. Successful applicants will be expected to teach in Swedish or English. The purpose of the education is to get a Ph.D. in Science with focus on Environmental Science.

Additional information on the announced position is available from Assoc. Prof. Thomas Backhaus, thomas.backhaus@dpes.gu.se, +46-(0)31-786 2734

The application has to include a cover letter with the applicant's motivation for the application, CV, copies of the obtained degrees and transcripts of the academic record (list of courses during the study), at least two references that are familiar with the applicant's qualifications and a copy of either the final master thesis or the latest draft. Please add additional material if needed.

Send the application to the following address:

University of Gothenburg
Ingela Lyck
Dept. of Plant and Environmental Sciences
Box 461
SE-405 30 Gothenburg
Sweden

The application must be received **no later than 7th of April 2010**.
Mark the application with **ref. no B 311 138/10**

Union representatives: SACO Martin Björkman, tel +46-31-786 3608; SEKO Lennart Olsson, tel +46-31-786 1173; OFR Astrid Igerud, tel +46-31-786 1167.

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