

Swedish nature

A course offered to biology students at Yunnan University, Nanjing University, Shandong University, Sichuan University, Nankai University and Huaqiao University.

Aim

The course will give an overview of boreal and northern temperate ecosystems and their natural history, including the effects of climate, history, geology and human impact. After the course the student should be able to

- describe important groups of organisms and prominent species in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and their adaptations,
- explain in basic terms how these ecosystems are structured and affected by climate, physical factors and human impact,
- apply some field techniques to assess diversity and abundance

Contents

All teaching will take place at our two field stations, Norr Malma in eastern central Sweden (80 km east of Uppsala) and the marine biology station Klubban on the Swedish west coast (500 km west-south-west of Uppsala).

We focus on ecosystems that dominate the northern temperate and the southern boreal zones. Focus is on ecosystem structure and adaptations of organisms, and the content therefore makes it possible to compare with similar ecosystems in other parts of the world.

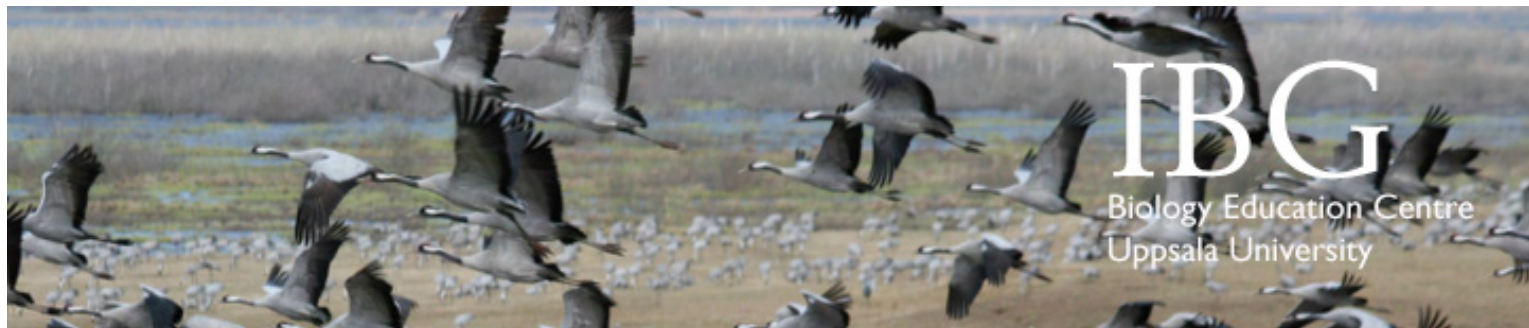
Each ecosystem will be introduced in a lecture, focussing on important processes, such as productivity, nutrient limitations, soil processes and other abiotic factors. However, most of the time will be spent on excursions to give hands-on experience. In the field the students will collect data on the life form variation (e.g. deciduous – winter green, trees – shrubs – herbs – bryophytes) and prominent species. Standardized quantitative methods to analyse the structure and species composition will be introduced. The students will work in small groups under guidance of experienced teachers. As examination, student groups will present the results from the ecosystems at the evening sessions.

Lectures will also cover the physical geography and natural history of Sweden, knowledge that is essential for an understanding of ecosystem properties.

There are 28 places at the course. The course fee is 25 000 RMB and include travels, accomodation and food during the field part of the course.

The course is given in English. In your application you don't have to enclose any document of proficiency in English. But for successful result at the course you should master English fairly good. If there are more applicants than places at the course we make a selection based on your letters of intention. After the course you will receive a document/diploma that you have studied this course of 5 credits.

Read more and see pictures: www.ibg.uu.se/swedish_nature



”Swedish Nature”, 5 credits, 20 July – 10 August, 2015

The course starts on Monday 20th July. We meet you at Arlanda airport outside Stockholm. On the first course day we will drive with minibuses for about one hour to our field station, situated at the lake Erken. Main course content there will cover ecology and limnology (sweet water biology). On 25th July we leave the station and drive to Kinnekulle. There you will study soil sediments and fossils. Next day we drive to our field station, Klubban, situated at the west coast of Sweden. There you will study marine biology and biodiversity. On 1st August we will drive back to Uppsala.

The field part of the course ends on Saturday 1st August when you arrive at Uppsala. The last week of the course you can finish writing experimental reports and a course evaluation. If you have done that before arrival at Uppsala you can choose to use the days between 1st to 10th August for whatever activity you wish. Some of you may wish to return to China as soon as possible and some may wish to use these days for touring activity.

After admission to the course is finished I wish to have information from all of you about your plans for the days after 1st August. We will arrange accommodation for all students at a hostel from 1st to 2nd August. We will assist with the booking of accommodation after 2nd August for those who wish to stay longer in Uppsala. The cost for the accommodation after arrival in Uppsala on 1st August is not included in the fee for the course.

Swedish Nature was given during the summer 2010–2014 with 20–28 Chinese students. A few of them returned home early, some stayed in Uppsala and the majority made a tourist tour in Sweden.

When you in April 2015 apply for a Visa to Sweden you shall include a letter from me that facilitates the process to get the Visa. In the letter I will inform about the course content and the course period. Since you will get a Visa for the period 20th July until 10th August you can use the last week for touring without having a special tourist Visa.

Last day for application is 15 March 2015. The application should include your e-address, information about which program you study and a short letter of intention (reasons why you wish to study Swedish Nature). Where you should send you application: Students from Shandong University: Ass. Professor Zhang Shuping, School of Life Sciences (spzhang@sdu.edu.cn; +86-150-9896 1392). Students from Nanjing University: program officer Cai Dandan, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges, (ddcai@nju.edu.cn; +86-25-8359 3371). Students from Yunnan University: Professor Duan Changqun, Dean School of Life Science (chqduan@ynu.edu.cn; +86-871-5032 753). Students from Nankai University: Luan Jianhong, International Office (nkuoiae@gmail.com; +86-22-2350 8686). Students from Sichuan University: Xu Jing, International office (phoenixgirl213@163.com; +86-28-8546 8886), or Professor Sun Qun, head Dept. of Biotechnology (qunqunsun2002@yahoo.com.cn). Students from Huaqiao University: Professor Xu Ruian, Dean, School of Biomedical Sciences (ruianxu@hqu.edu.cn; +86- 595-22690952) and Professor Wang Shibin, College of Chemical Biology and School of Environmental Engineering (sbwang@hqu.edu.cn; +86-592 6162326), or Xu Tao, Director, School Office (swyxy@hqu.edu.cn).

Information about admission will be given before 20th March. Admitted students will in May 2015 get information from the course leaders about practical matters.

Please contact me (margareta.krabbe@ibg.uu.se) if you have questions about the course.

You are very welcome to the course!

Margareta Krabbe
Head of department
Biology Education Centre
Uppsala University

