

Annual report 2019 – summary

Courses and programmes at undergraduate and Master's level

- In 2019, SLU had an educational volume of 3,906 full-time equivalent students (FTEs). This is an increase of almost 200 FTEs compared to 2018. SLU is working in a number of ways to increase the educational volume.
- SLU continues to admit just over 1,000 students annually to the degree programmes that start at undergraduate level, including the longer professional programmes.
- In 2019, almost 400 students were admitted to one of SLU's Master's programmes, including those run in cooperation with Uppsala University. Compared to 2018, this is a 50 per cent increase.
- The number of students required to pay fees continues to increase and made up just over 20 per cent of the new students on Master's programmes. The total number of fee-paying students in 2019 was 94 FTEs.
- More than 1,100 degrees were issued to around 900 students in 2019. This is in line with the levels before the dip in 2018.
- SLU is working actively to improve the quality of our courses and programmes. In 2019, the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) reviewed SLU's quality assurance work.
- Gender equality and a diverse student population remained an important focus throughout the year. However, changes to the gender distribution were insignificant, with around 2/3 of the students female and 1/3 male.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK +2 million.

Doctoral courses and programmes

- 113 doctoral students were admitted in 2019, somewhat fewer than in 2018. In the last five years, an average of 105 new doctoral students has been admitted annually.
- The number of active doctoral students has continually decreased during the same five-year period. SLU had 528 active doctoral students in 2019, compared to 649 in 2015. About 47 per cent of the active doctoral students have foreign backgrounds.
- The number of doctoral students with a research grant (26 persons) has decreased sharply during these five years. Of the doctoral students, 76 are employed as such while the remainder has other forms of employment.

- In 2019, the number of degrees was estimated at 90.5. This is higher than in 2018 but lower than the four previous years. The number is, however, reasonable when seen in relation to the low admission rates in 2012–2016.
- Women make up the majority both among newly admitted doctoral students (60 per cent), active doctoral students (60 per cent) and those awarded a doctoral degree (64 per cent). On the whole, men and women fund their studies the same way.

Research

- SLU's research publications (articles and reviews) increased by just over seven per cent between 2018 and 2019. This increase is in line with national publication levels. In 2019, approximately 1,800 articles and reviews were published.
- In 2019, external funding represented 54 per cent of the total income for research and doctoral courses. Compared to 2018, external funding increased marginally (SEK 10 million).
- External funding comes mainly from research councils and scientific foundations. Formas accounted for almost a third of the external funding.
- The interest in taking part in the EU Horizon 2020 framework programme is increasing. In 2019, 132 applications with SLU as a partner were submitted, a number considerably higher than the average since the programme was launched in 2014. The number of applications where SLU is a coordinator has also increased.
- As a concrete result of last year's research evaluation, Quality and Impact 2018, an international advisory board was set up in 2019. The board consists of seven members from five different countries. Its task is to advise the university management in issues of a comprehensive, strategic character and to contribute to horizon scanning.
- SLU's new oceangoing research vessel, R/V Svea, was delivered in 2019 and has so far completed four missions.
- As part of our appropriation directions, in September 2019 SLU was given the task to strengthen research on rural areas through increased coordination of stakeholders in rural development research and regional development. This work was initiated during the autumn.
- Change in capital for the year (research and doctoral courses): SEK -57 million.

Environmental monitoring and assessment (EMA)

- SLU has delivered supporting data for the follow-up of the national environmental objectives, climate reporting, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Helsinki Commission, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the species and habitat directive and the bird directive.

- By order of the government, SLU has produced forecasts for the flow of greenhouse gases to and from forests and woodland, and we have produced new supporting data for a forest reference level.
- The reduced appropriations to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency resulted in a drastic reduction of assignments for SLU. This has been counteracted partly through dismissals, partly through a reduction of inventories.
- The first call for applications was launched for the new competence level senior environmental assessment specialist.
- 2019 was the first year when SLU did not have access to the special development funds that, through various setups, have been available since 2006. This affected our ability to continue the development of methods for cost-efficient environmental monitoring and assessment.
- Within the framework of the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative, the new Artfakta (Species Facts) was launched, bringing together, in a shared interface adapted to mobile phones, a number of the digital services for species and nature conservation information provided by the Swedish Species Information Centre.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK -13 million. Of this, the research vessel Svea accounts for -13 million, meaning that other EMA activities broke even.

External collaboration

- Several prioritised actions within the SLU collaboration strategy were implemented during the year. One example is strengthening the merit value of collaboration.
- The number of senior lecturers who are also external collaboration specialists increased to 24, and new guidelines were published.
- Together with other higher education institutions in Sweden, SLU is taking part in six projects funded by Vinnova and aimed at developing third-stream activities at Swedish higher education institutions.
- On behalf of the government and linked to its food strategy, SLU now has a programme for externally employed doctoral students, with 11 students taking part.
- SLU has continuously worked with inter-faculty food issues through the Future Food platform as well as in internal coordination group for food issues, and for the fifth time, we arranged the *Matologi* event in Stockholm and took part in Almedalen Week 2019 with seminars on water as a food.
- We have adopted a policy for SLU's global contribution to Agenda 2030, and our extensive research collaboration with actors in low-income countries has continued.
- SLU Holding continues to see a high influx of innovation projects. In 2019, SLU Holding invested in five companies and took over the running of Green Innovation Park.

Personnel

- SLU's personnel increased by 221 full-time equivalents (8 per cent) during the period 2015–2019. Compared with 2018, the increase is 81 FTEs (3 per cent) to 3,062 FTEs. The average number of employees was 3,883.
- In 2019, the research and teaching staff increased by 50 FTEs, or 3 per cent, compared with 2018.
- The number of professors fell by 35 FTEs during 2015–2019, which corresponds to 15 per cent. The reason for this decrease is that being promoted to professor is no longer a right.
- 54 per cent of SLU's 3,062 FTEs in 2019 were women and 46 per cent were men.
- Among researching and teaching staff, gender distribution has become more even over time. In 2019, there were 45–50 per cent women in these categories. However, there are only 34 per cent women among deans and heads of department.
- 31 per cent of professors were women and 69 per cent were men. SLU has employed 36 professors during the last three years, 12 of whom were women, a 33 per cent share. This means that the government recruitment target of 51 per cent women during 2017–2019 has not been fulfilled.
- Average absence due to illness is on a par with the previous year's figures. There is still a relatively large difference between women and men in absence due to illness.

Financial analysis

- SLU reports a deficit of SEK 68 million for 2019 and the capital brought forward amounts to SEK 499 million, giving a closing capital of SEK 431 million.
- The university's finances remain strong. Research grants (payments) were at the same level as the previous year; SEK 1,367 million. Unused contributions increased by 42 million and there was a 23 million decrease in accrued grant payments. In total, SLU will carry over SEK 64 million of increased grants to the next year.
- Like other public authorities, SLU has seen increased costs for pensions. In 2019, the increase was SEK 40 million, and this increase will most likely continue during the coming year.
- The research vessel Svea was completed during the year, and SLU has bought the stables that are part of the Centre for Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. This has resulted in an increase in fixed assets of SEK 453 million, giving a total of 2,143 million by the end of 2019. The Swedish National Debt Office loan has increased by SEK 480 million to 2,021 million. The interest rate was -0.25 per cent during 2019