

SLU annual report 2022 – summary

Courses and programmes at Bachelor's and Master's level

- In 2022, SLU received direct government funding for 4,393 full-time equivalent students (FTEs). This is 44 FTEs less than the previous year, but an increase of 177 compared to 2020. The government's objective for the period 2022–2024 is at least 12,600 FTEs.
- We had 987 new students registered on Bachelor's programmes (not including those run in cooperation with other Swedish higher education institutions). This is a decrease compared to 2021, reflecting a national trend of a drop in the number of applicants per place.
- In 2022, 408 new students were registered on our Master's programmes (including those run in cooperation with other Swedish higher education institutions). The number of Master's students peaked in 2020 with 525 new students but has since dropped to the same level as in 2019.
- The number of fee-paying students went up by 141 FTEs compared to 2021.
- In 2022, SLU issued a total of 1,153 degrees to 965 students, an increase compared to 2021.
- During the year, an external investigation of the future development of the degree programme in equine science was carried out.
- In autumn 2022, the number of places for new entrants on the Veterinary Nursing programme went up from 100 to 115, and on the Veterinary Medicine programme from 100 to 110.
- Gender equality and a diverse student population remained an important focus throughout the year, e.g. through a strategy for widening participation. SLU also signed a letter of intent together with several players in the land-based sector. The signees commit to actively and jointly improving and highlighting the work against discrimination and harassment.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK 8 million

Doctoral courses and programmes

- 116 doctoral students were admitted in 2022, somewhat more than the previous year. In the last five years, an average of 113 new doctoral students have been admitted annually.
- The number of active doctoral students has dropped steadily during the last five years. This is a national trend. SLU had 535 active doctoral students in

2022, compared to 561 in 2018. About 43 per cent of the active doctoral students have foreign backgrounds.

- Doctoral studentships are the most common form of funding, 82 per cent of doctoral students fund their studies that way. The number of doctoral students with a research grant (11 students) has plummeted during these five years. The remainder of doctoral students has other forms of employment at SLU, or with external organisations.
- The number of doctoral degrees issued in 2022 was 79.5, a relatively low number given the number of admitted doctoral students in 2013–2017. During this period, SLU admitted on average 96 doctoral students annually. The pandemic has clearly affected the student completion rate, but other factors such as parental leave also play a part.
- Women make up the majority of doctoral students, both among newly admitted students (59 per cent) and active doctoral students (59 per cent). Among the doctoral students who graduated, a majority (54 per cent) were women.
- 84 per cent of the female doctoral students and 78 per cent of the male doctoral students were employed as such. There are some differences among those not employed as doctoral students, but as the number of students is limited and several of them may rely on a combination of sources for funding, it is difficult to draw any conclusions from these differences.

Research

- Our scientific publishing output (articles and reviews) dropped by 10 per cent between 2021 and 2022. Nationally, the number of articles published fell by 6 per cent. In 2022, just over 2,200 articles and reviews were published. The share of scientific articles published that belong to the 10 most cited per cent in their respective subject field amounted to just above 16 per cent.
- In 2022, external funding represented 55 per cent of the total income for research and doctoral courses. Compared to 2021, external funding increased by SEK 116 million (9 per cent). Depending on the funding body, this also means that a growing share of direct governmental resources is used for co-funding via a department, faculty or central funds.
- External funding comes mainly from research councils and scientific foundations. Formas accounted for just over a quarter of the external funding.
- Interest in taking part in the EU framework programmes remains high. In 2022, 116 applications with SLU as a partner were submitted to the Horizon Europe framework programme. Of these, 24 were coordinated by SLU.
- A number of research teams and individual researchers at SLU successfully competed for prestigious grants and awards during the year.
- Change in capital for the year (research and doctoral courses): SEK 66 million

Environmental monitoring and assessment (EMA)

- The long-term trend shows an increase in external funding, a reflection of the demand for SLU as a provider of environmental assessment data.
- We have renewed our agreement with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency on working together to report Swedish climate data up until 2032. Through the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, there is a new agreement with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management to take part in the Smed network (Svenska miljöemissionsdata/Swedish Environmental Emission Data) during the period 2023–2030.
- SLU's environmental monitoring and assessment has celebrated its 25th anniversary, and the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative its 20th.
- Part of the EMA funding is used to further the development of environmental assessment. One result of this is SLU's environmental data catalogue which was launched during the year, with information on open-source EMA data from SLU.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK 0 million

Collaboration

- The four platforms SLU Future Food, SLU Future Forest, SLU Future One Health and SLU Urban Futures continue to act as important arenas for collaboration with players outside academia.
- In 2022, a collaboration agreement with Umeå municipality was concluded, and the collaboration projects with Uppsala and Lomma municipalities, Region Uppsala, Region Västerbotten, Västra Götalandsregionen and Region Skåne are still ongoing.
- SLU is taking part in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's bilateral projects for increased national research capacity in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Moçambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. As part of these projects, SLU supports the running of doctoral courses and study programmes.
- During the 2021–2022 academic year, SLU arranged the second round of the SLU Youth Institute, in collaboration with the World Food Prize Foundation. The purpose is to raise interest among Swedish youth in global challenges, in particular food security.
- The innovation support offered by SLU Holding has seen a positive trend during the year, with new investments in five companies.

Personnel

- SLU's personnel increased by 201 FTEs (7 per cent) during the period 2018–2022. Compared to 2021, the number of FTEs shrunk by 11 to 3,193. The average number of employees was 4,034.
- The number of FTEs among research and teaching staff remained constant compared to 2021.
- The number of professors fell by 25 FTEs (12 per cent) during 2018–2022. The main reason for this is that since 2013, being promoted to professor is no longer a right.
- 55 per cent of SLU's 3,193 FTEs in 2022 were women and 45 per cent were men.
- Among research and teaching staff, gender distribution has become more even over time. In 2022, the distribution was 50/50.
- 33 per cent of professors were women and 67 per cent were men. SLU recruited 8 professors in 2022, 4 of whom are women.
- The average sick leave went up slightly compared to the previous year. There is still a relatively large difference between women and men in absence due to illness.

Financial analysis

- SLU reports a surplus of SEK 74 million for 2022 and the capital brought forward amounts to SEK 625 million, giving a closing capital of SEK 699 million.
- The university's finances are still strong, with a closing capital of SEK 699 million. The major share of this capital, SEK 587 million or 88 per cent, is within research. In addition, SLU has unused grants of SEK 1,405 million.
- Operating costs grew by 20 per cent compared to 2021. This is primarily due to increased costs for travel, conferences and consultants and can partly be explained by increased activity after pandemic restrictions were lifted. The full effects of rising inflation on operating costs are yet to be seen as most of the increase took place during autumn 2022.
- External funding has grown in the last few years, and grant payments went up by SEK 67 million between 2021 and 2022. The Swedish Research Council Formas is by far the largest funding body. Payments from Formas increased by SEK 30 million between 2021 and 2022.
- The disposal of the property Ultuna 2:1 was concluded during the year, adding SEK 30 million to fee revenues.
- SLU has difficulties achieving financial balance in larger infrastructure facilities. The outgoing balanced surplus of SEK 699 million includes a -152 million deficit regarding two infrastructure facilities, the University Animal Hospital and the SLU estate management.