

SLU annual report 2021 – summary

Courses and programmes at undergraduate and Master's level

- In 2021, SLU had 4,437 full-time equivalent students (FTEs). This is an increase of 221 FTEs compared to the previous year. SLU has been working to increase the educational volume in a number of ways and surpassed the government objective of at least 12,000 FTEs during the period 2019–2021.
- 2021 saw our courses and programmes still affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Online teaching was the norm during the spring semester, but as of the autumn semester, students gradually returned to campus. On-campus teaching was adapted to prevent the spread of infection, e.g. by reducing crowding.
- We had close to 1,100 new students registered on undergraduate programmes (not including programmes run in cooperation with other Swedish higher education institutions).
- 451 new students were registered on our Master's programmes (including those run in cooperation with other Swedish higher education institutions). This is a reduction compared to the previous year, but an increase seen over five years.
- The equivalent of 137 FTEs were fee-paying students in 2021, an increase of just over 4 per cent compared to 2020.
- In 2021, SLU issued a total of 1,115 degrees to 918 students.
- The new MSc programmes in agricultural science and forest science, redesigned to comply with the Bologna principle of 3+2 years, started in autumn 2021, as did an undergraduate programme taught in English, *Forest and Landscape*. Two completely new programmes were also launched – an undergraduate programme in political science/sustainable development, and the Master's programme *Sustainable Food and Landscape*.
- 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 others in the land-based sector. The signees commit to actively and jointly improving and highlighting the work against discrimination and harassment. However, changes to the student population gender distribution were insignificant, with around 2/3 of the students female and 1/3 male.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK -8 million.

Doctoral courses and programmes

- 92 doctoral students were admitted in 2021, somewhat fewer 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 decreased continually during the last five years, following the national trend. SLU had 535 active doctoral students in 2021, compared to 570 in 2017. About 44 per cent of the active doctoral students have foreign backgrounds.
- Doctoral studentships is the most common form of funding, with 81 per cent of the doctoral students employed as such. The number of doctoral students with a research grant (16 students) has decreased sharply during these five years. Doctoral students not on grants or studentships have other forms of employment at SLU, or with external organisations.
- The number of doctoral degrees issued in 2021 was 92, a reasonable level given the number of admitted doctoral students during the 2021–2016 period. SLU admitted an average of 93 doctoral students annually.
- Women make up the majority of doctoral students, both among newly admitted students (60 per cent) and active doctoral students (59 per cent). Among the doctoral students who graduated, a majority (59 per cent) were women.
- 83 per cent of the female doctoral students and 77 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) increased by 15 per cent between 2020 and 2021. Nationally, the number of articles published increased by 10 per cent. In 2021, just over 2,500 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 17 per cent.
- In 2021, external funding made up 51 per cent of the total income for research and doctoral courses. Compared to 2020, external funding increased by SEK 139 million (12 per cent). This also means that, depending on the source of funding, a growing share of direct governmental resources is used for co-funding; through 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 is increasing. In 2021, a total of 43 applications for the last call under the Horizon 2020 framework programme were submitted, as well as 78 applications for the new research and innovation funding programme, Horizon Europe. The number of applications with SLU as the coordinating partner made up just over 30 per cent of applications in 2021.
- Several 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 169 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.
- The focus areas in SLU's 2021–2025 strategy tally well with the long-term EMA objectives, making EMA's contribution to the whole clearer.
- The framework agreement with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has been reviewed with a view to the 2022–2024 agreement period. A new agreement with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency on climate reporting is being prepared.
- The Swedish Species Information Centre has improved its IT systems, focusing in particular on the stakeholders' need for information on invasive species.
- The first open lectures by our senior environmental assessment specialists were broadcast on the SLU website.
- For the first time, the Flora and Fauna Conference was held entirely online, still with the option of interacting with exhibitors and participants.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK 16 million

Collaboration

- During the year, a collaboration group for food was set up to support SLU's contribution to the national food strategy. The current assignments for the external collaboration specialists were reviewed.
- As the national projects linked to Vinnova's K3 programme have come to an end, SLU has continued working on a development project for collaboration. One example is the merit value of collaboration.
- SLU continued to run the five-year programme for externally employed doctoral students in food. This was the third year for this project, which, in principle, is progressing according to plan.
- New and renewed agreements have been concluded with Lantmännen, Västra Götalandsregionen and with Skansen and Stockholm University on the Baltic Sea Science Center.
- SLU is taking part in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's bilateral programmes for increased national research capacity in Bolivia, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Moçambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, supporting the doctoral studies that take part within these programmes.
- The multiannual CGIAR research programme on livestock, where SLU ran the animal health sub-project, was concluded in 2021.
- For SLU Holding, 2021 was a successful year with a high inflow of student-generated ideas and innovation projects, and all in all very satisfactory operating results. New investments were made in three companies.
- The Green Innovation Park expanded and now has a presence in Alnarp, in addition to Uppsala.

Personnel

- SLU's personnel increased by 335 full-time equivalents (12 per cent) during the period 2017–2021. Compared to 2020, the increase is 37 FTEs (1 per cent) to 3,193 FTEs. The average number of employees was 3,965.
- Research and teaching staff increased by 40 FTEs, or 2 per cent, compared to 2020.
- The number of professors fell by 16 FTEs (8 per cent) during 2017–2021. The reason for this decrease is that since 2013, being promoted to professor is no longer a right.
- 55 per cent of SLU's 3,193 FTEs in 2021 were women and 45 per cent were men.
- Among research and teaching staff, gender distribution has become more even over time. In 2021, the distribution was 50/50.
- 32 per cent of professors were women, and 68 per cent were men. SLU recruited 13 professors in 2021, 2 of whom are women.
- 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 surplus of SEK 177 million for 2021 and the capital brought forward amounts to SEK 448 million, giving a closing capital of SEK 625 million.
- The considerable surplus is mainly a result of increased direct government funding by SEK 175 million (9 per cent). This additional funding was principally allocated to infrastructure (70 million), the SLU Forest Damage Centre (30 million) and undergraduate and Master's programmes (39 million).
- Some of the increase in capital is the temporary allocation of SEK 70 million linked to Uppsala Municipality's expansion in Ultuna. The future reduction of research and teaching space means SLU will need to review, move or adapt the operations affected by this expansion.
- The university's finances are still strong. This is mainly the case in the area of research and doctoral studies, where SEK 521 million, or 83 per cent, of the capital can be found. In addition, SLU has unused grants of SEK 1,263 million.
- SLU has difficulties achieving financial balance in larger infrastructure facilities. The closing balance surplus of SEK 625 million includes a -124 million deficit for the University Animal Hospital and the SLU estates.
- The pandemic meant that costs for travel, courses and conferences were low compared to before the pandemic. Compared to 2019, costs dropped by approximately 100 million.