

Annual report 2018 – summary

Education at first and second cycle

- The educational volume at SLU, measured as the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs), was 3,720 in 2018 and 11,200 for the period 2016–2018, which means that SLU has almost reached the government's target of 12,000 FTEs for the period. SLU is now taking action to increase the educational volume.
- SLU continues to admit approximately 1,000 students per year to the degree programmes that begin at first-cycle level. The number of applicants for degree programmes at second-cycle level has continued to increase, which also applies to the number of fee-paying students. About 250 students registered for one of SLU's Master's programmes in 2018.
- The number of qualifications awarded has decreased somewhat. During 2018, approximately 750 students received at least one qualification from SLU.
- The number of international students has decreased successively over the last five-year period. The number of outgoing students has increased compared with 2017.
- There are only insignificant changes in the gender distribution: just over 2/3 of the students are women and almost 1/3 are men. On the forestry programmes, there are mostly men, while there are almost exclusively women on the animal-related programmes.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK +14 million

Doctoral education

- In 2018, SLU admitted 130 doctoral students, which is an increase compared with admissions in recent years.
- The number of active doctoral students has continually decreased in recent years. In 2018, SLU had 563 active doctoral students, which is a decrease of about 175 since 2010. The falling numbers of doctoral students are mainly explained by a greater number of examinations than admissions in recent years. About 46 per cent of the active doctoral students have foreign backgrounds.

- 72 per cent of the doctoral students have doctoral studentships. The number with a research grant (39 persons) continues to decrease compared with previous years.
- The number of final examinations in 2018 was 71, which is a marked decrease compared with previous years. After a number of years with relatively many examinations, the reduction is expected. Both admissions and examinations have previously shown a cyclical pattern where several years with higher figures are followed by several years with lower figures. About half of those who graduated were women.

Research

- SLU's research publications (articles and reviews) increased by almost five per cent between 2017 and 2018. An increase that is in line with the personnel increase in the researching personnel groups. In 2018, approximately 1,700 articles and reviews were published. Nationally, research publications were unchanged between 2017 and 2018.
- In 2018, external funding represented 52 per cent of the total income for research and third-cycle courses. After relatively small changes in level over the period 2015–2017, the increase in payments received in 2018 was considerable, with an increase of around 16 per cent compared with 2017.
- External funding comes mainly from research councils and scientific foundations. Formas accounted for almost a third of the external funding. Compared with other universities, the Swedish Research Council accounts for a relatively small share of SLU's funding.
- International funding has increased by 65 per cent during the period 2014–2018. Compared with 2017, payments from the EU framework programmes have almost doubled during 2018 (2017: SEK 34.7 million, 2018: SEK 62.5 million).
- An evaluation of SLU's research, Quality and Impact (KoN 2018), was performed during 2018. The purpose of the evaluation was to contribute to increasing the quality of research and thereby SLU's impact in society, as well as to gain an impression of where SLU's research stands in an international perspective. The results will form the basis for strategic planning and focus at all levels within the university.
- In 2018, SLU Grogrund – Centre for Breeding of Food Crops was established to contribute to the development of the food strategy goal of securing access to types of crops for sustainable and competitive agricultural and horticultural production throughout Sweden.
- Change in capital for the year (research and third-cycle courses): SEK -97 million. The negative result for the year is due to the use of accumulated capital in the form of increased appointments of, primarily, postdocs, which follows the intention of reducing the accumulated surplus.

Environmental monitoring and assessment (EMA)

- SLU is working on a government assignment to forecast the flow of greenhouse gases to and from forests and woodlands during the years 2021–2030, as well as contributing statistics for woodland with various forms of protection as part of the national forest programme.
- Two new programmes, Wildlife and Alpine/Arctic Landscapes, have been introduced to enhance EMA in areas that are important for SLU.
- The number of persons who are active in EMA (at least 10 per cent of their time) increased to 379 in 2018 (143 women and 236 men).
- SLU works continually to improve access to environmental data and during the year launched an interface which makes it possible to obtain, display and report on species information via apps and web systems at organisations and companies.
- SLU's new ocean-going research vessel Svea was launched in July and will be delivered in May 2019.
- SLU has temporarily redistributed capital to EMA to replace funding from the Rural Development Programme's technical support, which ceased after 2017. During 2018, contributions from international funding bodies mainly increased due to adjustment of a claim from the EU for the years 2014–2016.
- Change in capital for the year: SEK +29 million. The results for 2018 include SEK 22 million for the research vessel project, which means that the other EMA activities showed a result of SEK 7 million.

Collaboration

- During the year, SLU continued to gather its forces to increase the university's collaborative competence by starting a course in leading collaboration, working out a proposed credit portfolio for collaboration and distributing small contributions (seedcorn funds) for collaborative initiatives at the university.
- On government assignment as part of the food strategy, SLU has started a programme in food-related research for externally employed doctoral students. SLU also has excellent contacts with the consultancy organisations and performed an analysis of legislation on land acquisition and leaseholding on behalf of the government. SLU's Future Food platform gathers together SLU's expertise in food research.
- The Green Innovation Park project includes around 50 organisations in Uppsala and Alnarp. 104 new innovation projects began during 2018 as part of SLU Holding. This figure has increased steadily since 2013.
- During 2018, the SLU programme *Agricultural Sciences for Global Development (SLU Global)* was permanently established and began the development of a new global strategy for SLU.

Personnel

- SLU's personnel increased by 76 full-time equivalents (3 per cent) during the period 2014–2018. Compared with 2017, the increase is 133 FTEs (5 per cent) to 2,980 FTEs. The average number of employees was 3,785.
- In 2018, the researching and teaching staff increased by 72 FTEs compared with 2017 and is now at the same level as in 2014.
- The category career-development positions increased most during 2018 – primarily postdocs, but associate senior lecturers also increased within this category.
- The number of professors fell by 33 FTEs during 2014–2018, which corresponds to 14 per cent.
- 53 per cent of SLU's 2,980 FTEs in 2017 were women and 47 per cent were men.
- 31 per cent of professors were women and 69 per cent were men. The percentage of women among professors has increased from 29 per cent in 2017. The government has given SLU a target of 51 per cent women among newly recruited professors during the period 2017–2019. After two out of three years the figure is 34 per cent women.
- Among researching and teaching staff, gender distribution has become more even over the course of time. In 2018, there were 45–50 per cent women in these categories. However, there are only 30 per cent women among deans and heads of department.
- 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 54 million for 2018 and the capital brought forward amounts to SEK 555 million, giving a closing capital of SEK 501 million.
- The university's finances are still strong. This is mainly in research, where research grants (payments received) increased by SEK 200 million, or 16 per cent. A great deal of this increase has led to unused grants increasing by SEK 134 million and accrued grant payments received decreasing by SEK 28 million. Putting these items together shows that SLU is carrying forward about SEK 160 million in increased grant funds to next year.
- The value of new grant contracts is also greatly increasing, which will allow grant-funded research activities to continue to increase in the coming years.