A third of all biological research in Sweden takes place at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. The position of basic research is strong at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in SLU Uppsala, but activities also have a clear link to commerce and industry, and to society. This makes the university an important player in the region, in which 60 percent of the country’s life-science industry is located.

The research is extensive, encompassing agriculture and forestry, food, biotechnology, natural resources, the environment and economics, and also animal husbandry, animal protection, farm-animal genetics, and veterinary medicine. Educational programmes are provided in all these areas; in Sweden, it is only at SLU that the qualifications of certified agronomist and veterinary surgeon can be obtained.

SLU’s largest campus, Ultuna, is situated six kilometres south of Uppsala. The city is one of the University’s four principal locations. It is the home of university administration, the Vice-Chancellor’s office, and the faculties of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science.

There is a striking international element in activities at SLU Uppsala. Researchers and doctoral students are involved in both EU projects and collaboration with developing countries. By virtue of having been commissioned by the Swedish Government to pursue “environmental monitoring and assessment”, designed to achieve sustainable development, there is a strong link to work on Sweden’s environmental goals and its international commitments.

Within the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, there are four major clusters of research and education. Several research teams at the BioCentrum cluster are international leaders in their fields. Here, the latest tools for research on living natural resources are employed – at genetic, cellular and molecular levels. All this is a matter of the properties of plants and trees, and their refinement and diseases. Useful microorganisms, such as mycorrhiza, yeast, lactic-acid bacteria, toxic degradables and biogas producers make up one research area; life-sustaining food, such as wholemeals, vitamins and fatty acids constitute another.

In the Ecology and Plant Production cluster research is taking place into the ecology of species and the functions of ecosystems. This concerns crops and weeds, and the control of harmful organisms in agriculture and forestry. How to promote biological diversity and effective landscape and wildlife conservation are other important issues. A topical subject is how climate change impacts on soil, plants and animals.

The Soil, Water and Environment cluster has Sweden’s most wide-ranging expertise in soil sciences. Here, research is pursued into the long-term capacity of arable land and the forest to supply us with food, fodder, timber and fuel, and also into the state of our lakes and waterways.

Landscape and Society forms a cluster of activities with a focus on human beings and their life environments. Our natural resources are examined in their aesthetic, social, historical, political and economic aspects. Building beautiful and functional environments in urban areas, understanding conflicting interests and developing the countryside require knowledge and expertise other than the scientific.

The Faculty also performs research at SLU Umeå, and research and education at SLU Skara.
The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science is home to Sweden’s centre for research into health and disease among farm and domestic animals, food safety, and the interaction between animals and the environment. The interests of researchers and students range from advanced molecular biology to living animals in stalls and sheds. The University Veterinary Hospital, the only one of its kind in Sweden, is located on the campus.

There is a focus on the mutual dependence of animals and humans in many different ways. SLU’s responsibility for good animal husbandry, to ensure animal health and animal protection, is just as important for farm animals as it is for domestic and sports animals. The interest in curing disease and injury goes hand in hand with work on preventing disturbances to health. Veterinary surgeons, agronomists and biologists work together on projects in these areas, which have received considerable public attention.

Intense development is in progress. In conjunction with the University Veterinary Hospital, our currently geographically dispersed activities will be gathered together into two major centres — one in Ultuna, the other in new stall facilities at Funbo-Lövsta. The Faculty also conducts research and educational activities at SLU Skara.

The Faculty of Forest Sciences, based at SLU Umeå, conducts research and educational activities on the theme of forest products on the Ultuna campus.

SLU Uppsala has several interesting centres. The Swedish Species Information Centre, run jointly with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, assesses the state of species in the country, and also draws up Sweden’s official “Red List” of threatened plants, fungi and animals. The Centre also produces the largest book series in Sweden so far, “The Swedish Flora and Fauna Encyclopaedia”. The Centre for Sustainable Agriculture operates as a forum for researchers working on sustainability issues. The Centre for Environmental Impact Assessment works to improve the quality and application of environment-impact assessments.

SLU and Uppsala University collaborate in both research and education. Two examples: the Swedish Biodiversity Centre (CBM) is a national research node, aimed at conserving, sustaining, utilising and restoring biological diversity in Sweden; the Centre for Reproductive Biology is a research network, whose aim is to increase knowledge concerning reproduction among both animals and humans.

The Small Animals Skills Centre is the product of a collaborative project between SLU, Sweden’s National Veterinary Institute (SVA), and other interested parties. Its aim is to promote further education, research and information about dogs and cats. Hippocampus is a similar centre, again concerned with research, education and information, and is run collaboratively by SLU and SVA, but about horses.

SLU Holding AB is a company that invests in new research undertakings based on business concepts and innovations emanating from SLU. The company supports innovations and business development at SLU.

The Ultuna Gardens give a taste of SLU’s green educational approach. A place to delight in beautiful flowers and fresh vegetables!

The SLU libraries have national responsibility in the areas of agriculture, forestry, veterinary medicine, and environmental care. The Ultuna Library specialises in these subjects, and...
also in plant and forest protection, ecology, landscape planning, and genetics. On the campus there is also a veterinary library, oriented towards the examination, diagnosis and treatment of sick animals, and an ecology library with a specialisation in entomology.

**Sweden’s National Veterinary Institute (SVA) and the Swedish Institute of Agricultural Engineering (ITI)** are both located on the Ultuna campus, as is also a branch of the Friskis & Svettis company, which offers brand-new personal-exercise facilities of the highest class. There is student accommodation in the area.

**Educational programmes at SLU Uppsala**
- MSc in Agriculture – Economics and Management
- MSc in Agriculture – Animals
- MSc in Agriculture – Rural Development
- MSc in Agriculture – Food
- MSc in Agriculture – Soil/Plants
- MSc in Veterinary Medicine
- MSc in Energy Systems Engineering
- MSc in Aquatic and Environmental Engineering
- BSc in Biology and Environmental Science
- BSc in Biotechnology
- BSc in Computer and Systems Sciences – the Environment
- BSc in Animal Science
- BSc in Landscape Architecture
- BSc in Food and Health
- BSc in Economics and Management

In addition, there are both one and two year MSc programmes and a large number of single-subject courses.

**Other places in Uppsala where SLU has activities**
- Uppsala Biomedical Centre (BMC): molecular biology, molecular genetics, immunology, biochemistry
- Ekhaga experimental farm: productive and sustainable agriculture
- Kungsängen’s farm: milk production
- Lövsta research station: pigs and poultry
- Krusenberg: agrarian history and forest

![Diagram of SLU locations](image)
Tradition and development go hand in hand at SLU Uppsala. The year’s biggest academic events are the autumn’s grand doctoral award ceremony, with all the thesis defendants dressed in tails or long dresses, and the spring’s appointment of new professors.

**SLU Uppsala**

3,500 | students, of which 500 are PhD students
1,900 | employees

**For further information**

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www.slu.se