



PhD Candidate in metabarcoding at Tromsø University Museum

Tromsø University Museum has a four-year position vacant from 1st April 2018 for applicants who wish to obtain the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD). **The position is on the project “ECOGEN - Ecosystem change and species persistence over time: a genome-based approach”.**

The successful candidate will core lakes in the Alps and do metabarcoding and lithological analyses on lake-sediment cores to obtain information on past vascular plant species and key herbivores. These data, together with similar data from Fennoscandia, will be used together with the Ecogen team to 1) Distinguish the effects of biotic drivers, human land use and climate change on ecosystem resilience and ecosystem services, 2) Estimate species persistence across periods of change and identify factors causing extinction, 3) Provide methods and knowledge to inform species conservation and ecosystem management. See <https://app.cristin.no/projects/show.jsf?id=516711> and <https://www.researchgate.net/project/ECOGEN-Ecosystem-change-and-species-persistence-over-time-a-genome-based-approach>.

The PhD position is for a fixed term, with the objective of completion of training and research to the level of a doctoral degree. Admission to a PhD programme is a prerequisite for employment, and the programme period starts on commencement of the position. The PhD Candidate will participate in the faculty's organized research training or alternative training organized by (for example) the research school in biosystematics (<http://www.forbio.uio.no>). The PhD project will be completed during the period of employment. Information about the application process for admission to the PhD programme, application form and regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) are available at [this site](#).

Further information about the position is available by contacting the project leader, Professor Inger Greve Alsos, +47 77 62 07 96, inger.g.alsos@uit.

The position's affiliation

This position is attached to the Department of Natural Sciences, which is responsible for developing and maintaining scientific collections of objects (animals, plants, fossils and minerals) as well as public outreach, including the Tromsø Arctic-Alpine Botanical Garden. The department has a permanent staff of 16, of which nine are in academic positions. At the moment, four PhD students and one researcher are connected to the department. The position is within the research group in taxonomy and biodiversity, which focuses on diversity, phylogeography and taxonomy of northern organisms using molecular as well as traditional methods. The department has laboratories for modern and ancient DNA analyses, and it is currently involved in two large projects: “Ancient DNA of Northwest Europe” and “Norwegian Barcode of Life”. The latter includes full genome sequencing of the entire Norwegian flora. For more information about the Department of Natural Sciences, visit [this site](#).

The successful applicant is expected to spend most of the time in Tromsø, but there will also be extensive fieldwork, mainly in the Alps. The candidate is also expected to undertake a research stay abroad for up to three months with one or more of the project collaborators.

The project is a collaboration among staff at the Tromsø University Museum, the Departments of Marine and Arctic Biology, Geology, and Archaeology and Social Anthropology at UiT – The Arctic University of Tromsø. Other collaborators are based in the following institutions: the University of Oslo, the University of Southampton, the University of York, Joseph Fourier University, Århus University, ETH Zürich, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Adam Mickiewicz University, the University of Bern, and the University of Lausanne. The project currently supports one 5-year researcher, one PhD student and one post-doc. We are currently searching for one further PhD (this announcement) and one post doc.

Required qualifications

The successful applicant must fulfil the requirements for admission to the faculty's PhD programme as described by Regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at UiT, The Arctic University of Norway (see below). In addition, he/she must be able to document proficiency in English equivalent to the Norwegian Higher Education Entrance Qualification, as described in the [PhD regulations at UiT](#).

This position requires a Master's degree in biology. Experience in ecology, preferably using large datasets, is most relevant, and experience in vascular plant ecology, arctic-alpine biodiversity, palaeoecology, molecular biology, and bioinformatics/biostatistics are advantages. English language skills are required. German, French, Italian and Scandinavian language skills are advantages. Personal fit to the team and teamwork skills are important. Average physical condition is sufficient for the fieldwork. It's preferable with a driver's license.

The applicant must present a one-page outline with suggestions for the PhD project, including brief descriptions of aims and methods.

Emphasis shall also be attached to personal suitability

Working conditions

The normal period of employment is four years. The nominal length of the PhD programme is three years. The fourth year, distributed as 25 % of each year, will be used for teaching or other duties at the university. See [Guidelines](#) for the candidate's duties.

The position may be assigned duties related to dissemination of science, collection management or other work depending on the qualifications of the applicant and the needs of the museum.

Remuneration for the position of PhD Candidate is in accordance with the State salary scale code 1017 (or code 1378) (or both codes depending on qualifications). A compulsory contribution of 2 % to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund will be deducted on top of tax.

Assessment

The applicants will be assessed by an expert committee. During this assessment process, emphasis will be attached to the applicant's potential for research as shown by the following:

- Master's thesis or equivalent,
- any other relevant academic works, and
- project outline

In addition, consideration may be given to work experience or other activities of significance for the implementation of the PhD studies, and to any teaching qualifications. This includes teaching education, teaching experience, experience from popularization and experience/education from other types of dissemination. Information and material to be considered during the assessment must be submitted by the stipulated deadline.

The applicants who are assessed as the best qualified will be called to an interview. The interview will, among other things, provide the opportunity to discuss the applicant's personal suitability for the position.

Application

The **application** must be submitted electronically via the application form available on www.jobbnorge.no.

The application must include:

- Letter of application
- Proposed project outline
- CV (containing a complete overview of education, supervised professional training and professional work)
- Copies of:
 - *diploma and transcript from your Bachelor's degree or equivalent*
 - *diploma and transcript from your Master's degree or equivalent*
 - *diploma supplement for completed degree*

- documentation of English language proficiency
- project description
- List of works and description of these (see below)
 - The list of works should contain the following information:
- author(s), the work's title
- for articles: the journal's name and volume, the first and last page of the article, year of publication
- for publications: publisher, printer, year of publication, number of pages
- The works (published or unpublished) which the applicant wishes to be taken into consideration during the assessment process should be submitted
- List of referees with contact information.

All documentation that is to be evaluated must be certified and translated into English or a Scandinavian language.

Information and material to be considered during the assessment must be submitted by the stipulated deadline.

Applicants should also refer to the [Supplementary regulations for appointment to postdoktor \(Postdoctoral Fellow\), stipendiat \(PhD\) and vitenskapelig assistent \(Research Assistant\) positions at UiT The Arctic University of Norway](#) and to the [Regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment for posts of postdoktor \(Postdoctoral Fellow\), stipendiat \(PhD\), vitenskapelig assistent \(Research Assistant\) and spesialistkandidat \(Resident\)](#). (In Norwegian only)

Questions concerning the organisation of the working environment, such as the physical state of the place of employment, health services, possibility for flexible working hours, part time, etc., as well as questions about the PhD programme may be directed to the telephone reference in this announcement.

UiT has HR policy objectives that emphasize diversity, and it encourages all qualified applicants to apply regardless of their gender, functional ability and national or ethnic background.

UiT is an IW (Inclusive Workplace) enterprise, and will emphasize making the necessary adaptations to the working conditions for employees with reduced functional ability.

Personal data given in an application or CV will be processed in accordance with the Act relating to the processing of personal data (the Personal Data Act). In accordance with Section 25 subsection 2 of the Freedom of Information Act, the applicant may request not to be registered on the public list of applicants. However, the University may nevertheless decide that the name of the applicant will be made public. The applicant will receive advance notification in the event of such publication.