UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

University of Bergen
Department of Biological Sciences

Jobbnorge-ID: 117206
Søknadsfrist: Closed
Nettside:
Omfang:
Varighet:

Two PhD positions in evolutionary marine ecology (climate change)

At The Department of Biology (uib.no/en/bio/) there are vacancies for two PhD positions in evolutionary marine ecology. The positions are for a fixed term of 3 years each and will be associated with the Theoretical Ecology Group (bio.uib.no/te), which also is part of the Hjort Centre for Marine Ecosystem Dynamics (www.hjortcentre.no/). The candidates will conduct evolutionary and life history modelling within marine ecology, as part of the innovative training network MARmaED (Marine Management and Ecosystem Dynamics under Climate Change) funded by the European Union.

General information about the project
The project “MARine MAnagement and Ecosystem Dynamics under climate change (MARmaED)” is an Innovative Training Network funded by the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Action (The European Union's Horizon 2020) under grant agreement No 675997 for the period 2015-2019. MARmaED is an international and interdisciplinary network that unifies specific and complementary competences in marine sciences. In total, it comprises 15 PhD students and 8 research groups across Norway, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, and France. The project aims to investigate how the cumulative stress from biodiversity loss, climate change, and harvesting will affect Europe’s complex marine systems and consequences for optimal resource management. It will also study how management strategies can be improved to ensure sustainable exploitation and enhanced resilience.

Research focus
This is a joint call for two PhD research projects, described below. Please state clearly in your application should you wish to be evaluated for only one of the projects.

PhD project “A” will further develop existing life history models to study optimal harvesting under multiple stressors. It is known that fishing and climate change independently can drive evolution of behaviour and life history traits, but less is known about how these two anthropogenic drivers interact. The life history models are based in physiology, and the thesis will focus on how fishing and ocean warming together determine population dynamics and resilience. A visit of four weeks to the Danish Technical University in Copenhagen, Denmark, is planned as part of the project. The PhD will also regularly visit the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, Norway, to learn how science is used in resource management.

PhD project “B” will model key biological mechanisms that may prevent fish stocks from extending their range northwards as the ocean warms. It is commonly assumed that marine organisms will remain within their preferred thermal range, and as the ocean warms they are expected to shift their geographical distribution northwards. This PhD project will use life history modelling on two situations where other constraints may prevent northwards range shifts. The first is the increasing seasonality at high latitudes, and in particular the winter period of polar darkness during which food can be scarce or difficult to find. The second mechanism is where land masses prevent northwards migration, such as in large parts of the Mediterranean Sea. A visit of four weeks to Météo-France (Centre National de Recherches Météorologiques, Toulouse, France) is planned as part of the project. The PhD will also regularly visit the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, Norway, to learn how science is used in resource management.

Qualifications and personal qualities

- The applicant must hold a master's degree or the equivalent in biology, oceanography, climate change science, mathematics, or ICT, or must have submitted his/her master's thesis for assessment prior to the application deadline. It is a condition of employment that the master's degree has been awarded. It is expected that you will be in the upper segment of your class with respect to academic credentials.
- Experience with evolutionary and life history modelling, life history theory, evolutionary ecology, behavioural ecology, marine ecology, and computer programming is an advantage.
- Our research environment is collaborative, with discussion and cooperation being essential skills, but you must also be able to work independently and in a structured manner.
- You are expected to take an active role in the activities within the Theoretical Ecology Group.
- The working language is English, and proficiency in both written and oral English is required.

Special requirements for the position

- Special eligibility requirements apply since the position is funded by EU: you cannot have been resident in Norway (the host country) for more than 12 months in total during the last 36 months (counted from starting date of the PhD position). In addition, you are ineligible if your research experience (beyond the Master’s degree) exceeds 4 years.
- Starting date is no later than 1 March 2016.

Research training
As a PhD Candidate, you must participate in an approved educational programme for a PhD degree within a period of 3 years. A final plan for the implementation of the research training must be approved by the faculty within three months of employment. It is a condition that you satisfy the enrolment requirements for the PhD programme at the University of Bergen. The employment period may be reduced if you have previously been employed in a recruitment position.

We can offer

- A good and professionally challenging working environment.
- Salary at pay grade 50 upon appointment (Code 1017, NOK 430500 per year). Further promotions are made according to length of service in the position.
- Enrolment in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund. As a PhD student you are a regular taxpayer in Norway with general rights to free healthcare, sick leave, free school and education for your children, subsidized day care, rights to paid maternity/paternity leave (about 1 year in total), unemployment benefits, and pension earnings.
- A position in an inclusive workplace (IA enterprise).
- Good welfare benefits (sports and training, cabins, theatre and concerts, etc.).

Application and attachments
The application and appendices with certified translations into English or a Scandinavian language must be uploaded at Jobbnorge.

Contact persons
Further details about the positions can be obtained by contacting Associate Professor Christian Jørgensen (email: christian.jorgensen@uib.no, phone: (+47) 55584618, mobile: (+47) 41809327) or Professor Øyvind Fiksen (email: oyvind.fiksen@uib.no, phone: (+47) 55584624), both at Department of Biology, University of Bergen.

The application must include

- A letter (maximum 2 pages) which includes a research statement that describes your research interests and motivation for applying for the position. The letter should also briefly describe your competence and experience in biological or mathematical modelling. Please state clearly in the letter if you apply to only one of the above positions.
- The names and contact information for two reference persons. One of these must be the main advisor for the master's thesis or equivalent thesis.
- CV
- Transcripts and diplomas showing completion of the bachelor's and master's degrees, or official confirmation that the master's thesis has been submitted.
- Relevant certificates, diplomas, or grade transcripts.
- A publication list of scientific works (including submitted manuscripts). You may also attach pdf’s of publications.

Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University’s grading system.
The application and appendices with certified translations into English or a Scandinavian language must be uploaded at Jobbnorge.

Applications sent by e-mail or mail will not be considered.

Closing date for applications: 18 October 2015

General information
The state labour force shall reflect the diversity of Norwegian society to the greatest extent possible. Age and gender balance among employees is therefore a goal. It is also a goal to recruit people with immigrant background. People with immigrant backgrounds and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply for the position.

The University of Bergen applies the principle of public access to information when recruiting staff for academic positions. Information about applicants may be made public even if the applicant has asked not to be named on the list of persons who have applied. The applicant must be notified if the request to be omitted is not met.

The successful applicant must comply with the guidelines that apply to the position at all times.

Tilleggsinformasjon

Arbeidssted: