



Norges miljø- og
biovitenskapelige
universitet

Global challenges regarding energy and climate change, the environment, health, food safety, technology and renewable solutions, use and conservation of land and natural resources, and development of the bio-economy, requires greater effort. NMBU is well equipped to conduct further research in these fields. NMBU's expertise spans entire value chains and includes both basic and applied research.

On 1 January 2014, the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science and the University of Life Sciences merged and became -NMBU, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. NMBU has 1700 employees and 5200 students, and is currently located on two campuses - Ås, about 30 km south of Oslo, and Adamstuen in Oslo. In 2020, the new research- and education-building for veterinary science will be completed and all of NMBU will then be located at Campus Ås.

Further information about NMBU is available on www.nmbu.no

PhD scholarship within ethology - ref.no. 18/00216

The Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) has a vacant 3-year PhD position focused on poultry behaviour and welfare.

The Faculty of Biosciences is organized in two departments: Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences and Department of Plant Sciences. The Faculty has the main goal of advancing sustainable agriculture through basic and applied research on plants and animals including fish (aquaculture). The faculty employs approximately 240 scientists, technicians, and administrative personnel. Around 480 bachelor and master students and 90 PhD students are enrolled in educational programmes within the faculty, offering a stimulating and supportive learning environment.

The Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences (IHA) is recognized as a leading international institute in the fields of ethology, breeding and nutrition. Our expertise encompasses animal housing and management, feed technology and metabolism, and quantitative and molecular genetics.

The available position will be within the Ethology and Animal Environment Research Group of IHA, which comprises four full professors, three research scientists and three PhD students. The research group investigates the behaviour of both production and companion animals, and is active in the teaching of courses and continuing education programmes on applied ethology and animal welfare.

Research project

The successful applicant will participate in a project supervised by Dr. Ruth Newberry, Professor of Ethology, aimed at understanding effects of environmental enrichments on commercial poultry behaviour and welfare. The research is supported by The Research Council of Norway in connection with the study «Integrated EU mobile broiler data - Optimising broiler chicken management, health & welfare through use of integrated EU data», funded under the European Animal Health and Welfare (ANIHWA) ERA-Net Initiative (<https://www.anihwa-submission-era.net/imbdata>).

The research will involve data collection on farms along with the analysis of video recordings and large data sets on behaviour, production and slaughterhouse results from commercial poultry flocks. The assessment of positive indicators of poultry welfare, including playful behaviour, will be a key feature of this project. This topic is of fundamental interest for understanding developmental trajectories as well as having applications to the sustainability of poultry production.

Main tasks

- Elucidation of rearing environment variables affecting the behavioural and emotional profiles of birds.
- Development of novel behavioural markers of poultry welfare.
- Interaction with international collaborators and travel to collect data in different countries.
- Development of statistical models for predicting poultry welfare.
- Presentation of findings in high-quality publications.

The successful applicant is required to apply for admission to the PhD programme in Agricultural and Aquacultural Sciences, specialisation in Ethology, within 2 months, and submit an education plan and full research plan during the first 6 months of the appointment, with a view to completing the doctoral degree within the 3-year PhD scholarship period.

Academic qualifications

The successful applicant must meet the conditions defined for admission to a PhD programme at NMBU. The applicant must have an academically relevant education corresponding to a five-year Norwegian degree programme, where 120 credits are at the master's degree level. The applicant must have a documented strong academic background, and be able to document proficiency in both written and spoken English. For more detailed information on the admission criteria please see the [PhD Regulations](#) and the relevant [PhD programme description](#). The applicant must document expertise and interest in the research subject.

Required academic qualifications

- Master of Science degree or equivalent in ethology or other relevant area in the life sciences.

Desired academic qualifications

- Research experience in animal behaviour.
- Strong academic record.
- Strong mathematical/statistical skills.
- Knowledge of avian biology.
- High quality Master's thesis and other scholarly contributions.

Personal skills

Required personal skills

- Proficiency in written and spoken English.

Desired personal skills

- Ability to perform independent work, take initiatives, and generate new ideas.
- Ability to interact effectively with research team members and members of the poultry industry.
- Analytic ability and a systematic, academic approach to research.
- Organizational skills and motivation to be prolific in the conduct and dissemination of high quality research.
- Skill in the handling and care of poultry.

NMBU offers:

- An interdisciplinary and inclusive environment that provides exciting research and development opportunities.
- Daily contact with inspiring students and skilled colleagues.
- Generous employee benefit scheme.
- Beautiful surroundings just outside Oslo.

Remuneration

The salary for PhD-scholarship starts at wage grade 50 (equivalent to annual salary NOK 436.900) on the Norwegian Government salary scale upon employment and follows standard meriting regulations. Employment is governed by national guidelines for University and Technical College PhD scholars.

Further information

For further information, please contact Dr. Ruth Newberry, Professor of Ethology.

E-mail: ruth.newberry@nmbu.no; phone +47 67232628.

Application

To apply online for this vacancy, please click on the '**Apply for this job**' button above. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.

Application deadline: 1st March 2018

Applications should include (electronically) a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, full publication list, copies of degree certificates and transcripts of academic records (all certified), Master's thesis and other relevant papers and publications illustrating the applicant's qualifications and skills, and a list of two persons who may act as references (with phone numbers and e-mail addresses). If it is difficult to judge the applicant's contribution to multi-authored materials, a short description of the applicant's contribution must be included.

All application materials must be received by the application deadline. Printed material which cannot be sent electronically should be sent by surface mail to Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Department of Animal and Aquacultural Sciences, P.O. Box 5003, NO-1432 Ås, Norway within **1st March 2018**. Please quote reference number 18/00216. The department may require further documentation, e.g. proof of English proficiency.

A compulsory contribution of 2 % is made to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund. A good working environment is characterized by diversity. We encourage qualified candidates to apply, irrespective of gender, physical ability or cultural background. The workplace will, if necessary, be facilitated for persons with disabilities.

According to the Freedom of Information Act § 25, the list of applicants for this position may be made public irrespective of whether the applicant has requested that his/her name be withheld.

Jobbnorge ID: 146774, Deadline: The application deadline has passed