



UNIVERSITETET I OSLO

Jobbnorge ID: 196039
Deadline: 12/30/2020
Website: <http://www.uio.no/>
Scope: Fulltime
Duration: Fixed Term

The Faculty of Law

New announcement: PhD Research Fellow in Law - SFI Autoship

Job description

A position as PhD Research Fellow (SKO 1017) in law is available at the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo.

The position is funded by the Norwegian Research Council of Norway and is part of a Centre for Research Based Innovation (SFI). The Centre host is NTNU (University for Technical and Natural Science).

The PhD candidate will be working within the project Autoship. About the project, see <https://www.ntnu.edu/sfi-autoship>

The fellowship runs for three years without teaching duties, or four years with teaching duties constituting 25 % of the overall workload. A four-year fellowship requires that the candidate can contribute to the current teaching needs of the Faculty of Law.

More about the position

The development of autonomous ships attracts increased attention in the maritime industry both nationally and internationally. SFI Autoship will develop new knowledge, methods, tools, prototypes, technology and candidates for the Norwegian maritime industry. It will be a world-leading center for research and innovation on autonomous ships, with a special focus on safe and secure solutions.

The PhD project can have different topics, for example:

(1) Tort law:

The risk profile of autonomous ships will to a large extent consist in technical failure of various sorts. This gives occasion for renewed inquiry into classic topics of tort law within the sphere of shipowners' vicarious liability (Maritime Code Section 151) and/or the jurisprudential doctrine of strict liability for dangerous activity, including questions concerning shipowners' limitation rights. Liability on the part of designers and manufacturers of automation systems (product liability) may also be of relevance.

(2) COLREG and machine learning:

The COLREG constitutes the key code of conduct for collision avoidance at sea. On autonomous ships algorithm driven software combined with ships' sensor systems will be the "decision maker" for ships conduct when encountering other traffic. To what extent, and in what form, COLREG is capable of being "decoded" for purposes of machine learning, is a topic open for research. The topic touches upon robotics and machine learning on a more general scale.

(3) Safety approval of autonomous ships:

According to policy statements from the maritime authorities, autonomous ships must, in order to be approved for use, be at least as safe as conventional ships. This gives grounds for analyses of procedures for licensing and approval, including the role of classification societies and the relationship to the safety requirements of Ship Safety Act. The topic has a side to future requirements of safety approval and licensing of automation systems and robotics in general.

Qualification requirements and and personal skills

- The applicant must hold a five year Norwegian Master's degree in law, or equivalent.
- The applicant's grades should be in the upper level of the grading scale. This also applies to the master's thesis.
- For topic 1 the following apply: Applicants must have good skills in Norwegian or another Scandinavian language. For topic 2 and 3 the following apply: Applicants must have good English skills.
- Applicants must be able to work independently and in a structured way.
- Applicants must have good collaboration skills and the ability to contribute to the development of the subject.
- Applicants must take an active part in the development of a good profession environment.

The purpose of the fellowship is research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD- degree at the University of Oslo. The selected candidate will automatically be admitted to the faculty's PhD- program.

Assessment

Applicants must submit a project description of 5 -10 pages, which gives an account of the research project, its contribution and relevance to Norwegian legal science, choice of theory and scientific methodology, possible scientific ethical challenges, and how the work is planned to be completed.

In assessing the applicants, emphasis will be placed on the project description, grades, possible academic publications, the applicant's academic and personal qualifications for successfully completing the project. It is expected that the applicant will be able to complete the project during the stipulated period of appointment.

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

We offer

- Salary NOK 482 200,- til 526 000,- per annum
- A pleasant, educational and developing working environment
- Good [welfare schemes](#)

How to apply

The application must include:

- A cover letter
- [Project description](#) of 5-10 pages
- CV (complete overview of education, practice and academic work)
- Copies of diplomas with all grades included in the degree, certificates and complete publication list (if the original language of diplomas/certificates is not English or a Scandinavian language, an English language translation must be provided in addition to a copy of the original). Foreign diplomas must include an official documentation about the grading system together with the official grading scale.
- Up to 3 scientific works. If works are written by several authors, the division of work between them must be documented with the co-author's declaration.
- A list of references (2-3 references with name, relation to the applicant, e-mail address and telephone number).

All documents must be in English or a Scandinavian language. Application with attachments must be submitted via our electronic recruitment system, please click the "Search position".

Formal regulations

Please see for more details, the [guidelines](#) concerning appointments to research posts at the University of Oslo.

The University of Oslo has an [agreement](#) for all employees, aiming at securing property rights to research results.

According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) information concerning the applicant may be made public, even when the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

The University of Oslo aims at having its employees reflect the diversity of the population to the greatest degree possible. The personnel policy of the University of Oslo is to achieve a balanced gender composition and to recruit people with immigrant background. We encourage qualified applicants with disabilities to apply for the position and will, as a certified IA entity, adapt the workplace to suit employees with disabilities.

Contact information

Professor Trond Solvang, e-post: trond.solvang@jus.uio.no, tel: 228 59672/915 35 608.

Regarding question about recruitment system and process: HR-officer [Siri Martenson](#)

About the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo is Norway's oldest and highest ranked educational and research institution, with 28 000 students and 7000 employees. With its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally recognised research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

The Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law consists of a Maritime Law department, and a department for Petroleum and Energy Law and is one of five institutes at the University of Oslo Faculty of Law. NIFS is the Nordic hub for maritime law and a resource centre for maritime law and petroleum law research internationally. The institute has an international profile, with a global student body.

Additional information

Place of service:

Nordisk institutt for sjørett i Oslo sentrum 0130 Oslo (Oslo Municipality)