



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

University of  
Bergen  
Department of  
Geography

**Jobbnorge ID:** 202118

**Deadline:** 3/31/2021

**Website:** <https://www.uib.no/om/84775/ledige-stillinger-ved-uib>

**Scope:** Fulltime

**Duration:** Fixed Term

## PhD position at Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET), University of Bergen

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### PhD position at Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET), University of Bergen

The Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET), University of Bergen (UiB), is recruiting a PhD fellow for a period of three years. The PhD fellow will be part of a larger research project, "Accountable Solar Energy TransitionS" (ASSET), which is led by the University of Stavanger and where CET is a partner. The PhD fellow will work on fieldwork based accountability analysis of multi-scalar cases of solar rollout in Portugal or Rajasthan.

**CET** is an interdisciplinary research centre that aims at producing actionable knowledge about how to achieve deep, rapid and sustainable transformation of society to meet the climate challenge. CET is based at the UiB Faculty of Social Sciences, and works closely with scientists from a variety of disciplines.

The PhD candidate will be part of a larger interdisciplinary research project, "Accountable Solar Energy TransitionS" (ASSET). The point of departure of this larger project is that the failure to rapidly cut emissions despite impending climate breakdown is undermining the legitimacy of the institutions that govern multi-scalar energy transitions. Accountability scholarship has focused on structural aspects of global and national governance but neglected (i) informal contestation and power dynamics in sustainability transitions, and (ii) the sub-national scales where regional and local politics and priorities determine the political economy of low-carbon energy transitions. Through timely adaptation of established insights to rapid transitions beyond structuralist approaches, ASSET seeks to establish accountability analysis as a major methodology. It asks: How do accountability relations affect rapid energy transition? The project aims to produce insights that can support the just, accountable governance of multi-scalar energy transitions in financially constrained contexts.

ASSET will advance research at the intersection of accountability and energy transitions, using the rapid case of solar energy rollout. It will apply an accountability analysis approach in a first-of-its-kind comparative multi-scalar design to study energy transitions governance. This will advance research on energy governance and inform policies for accountable solar energy transitions. It combines ethnographic methods with an explicitly comparative research design and will integrate informal practices into future energy governance research. Unlike most solar rollout studies that focus on first-mover states, ASSET will study financially constrained contexts: Portugal and Rajasthan. Two PhD projects linked with ASSET will each focus on multi-scalar solar projects in one of these contexts. The two case contexts represent quite diverse energy development levels yet offer sufficient similarities for analytical comparison. Thus, this PhD project - which should focus on either Portugal or Rajasthan - will produce actionable knowledge on policies for just and rapid solar energy rollout and theorise the relationship between accountable governance and the impact of energy transitions.

The ideal candidate will have preliminary experience with, and demonstrate the capacity to advance competence in, qualitative research techniques including semi-structured and expert interviews and other ethnographic methods such as focus groups and participant observation. The ability to undertake a mixed methods approach including comparative small-scale surveys, and to speak Portuguese or Hindi, will be an advantage, but is not required. The position is not limited to specific disciplines. However, the applicants' competence, as well as the proposed research, must be relevant to objectives of the project.

The PhD fellow is expected to develop a research project fulfilling the requirements of a PhD in collaboration with supervisors in the early phase of the fellowship. At the application stage, candidates are expected to submit a letter of motivation, which describes how their competence contributes to the ASSET project.

The PhD student will work closely with main supervisor Siddharth Sareen and co-supervisor Håvard Haarstad. Another PhD position is available on the same project at the University of Stavanger. The student will benefit from engagement with a larger network of ASSET project participants. The PhD fellow will have her/his workplace at CET and is expected to contribute to making CET a dynamic and productive academic environment. The position is funded as part of a Researcher Project for Young Talents by the Research Council of Norway.

## Qualifications and personal qualities:

- A master's degree or the equivalent within social science. The requirements are generally grade B or better on master thesis and for the master's degree in total. Candidates who expect to complete their master's degree in Spring 2021 are also welcome to apply. It is a condition for employment that the master's has been awarded
- An interest in the governance of energy transitions, both empirically and conceptually.
- An interest in interdisciplinary research, and a demonstrated ability to work with others.
- Proficiency in both written and oral English. Hindi/Portuguese language proficiency is an advantage but not essential.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview.

## About the PhD position (applies to university PhD positions):

The duration of the PhD position is 3 years and does not include teaching duties. The position will commence on 1st July 2021.

The PhD research fellow will take part in the doctoral educational programme at UiB. The programme corresponds to a period of three years and leads to the submission of the PhD dissertation. To be eligible for admission, the candidate must have completed a master's degree. The educational background must be equivalent to a five-year master's education, including a two-year master's degree and a Master thesis. It is expected that the topic of the master's degree is connected to the academic field to which the candidate is seeking admission, which is within the qualitative social sciences (e.g. human geography, social anthropology, political ecology, science and technology studies, energy studies).

## We can offer:

- Salary at pay grade 54 upon appointment (Code 1017) on the government salary scale (equivalent to NOK 482 200,- per year). Further promotions are made according to length of service in the position
- A supportive and professionally challenging working environment
- Enrolment in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- A position in an inclusive workplace (IA enterprise)
- Competitive welfare benefits
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- 
- Competitive [welfare benefits](#)

## Your application must include:

- A cover letter including a brief account of the candidate's research interests and motivation for applying for the position
- The names and contact information for two reference persons. One of them must be the main advisor for the master's thesis or equivalent thesis
- A letter of motivation (2-4 pages) describing the relevant competence of the candidate, and how this competence contributes to the ASSET project. This should include both theoretical and methodological competence. Please consult the brief project description above when making this letter of motivation.
- CV, including publications (if any)
- Transcripts and diplomas showing completion of the bachelor's and master's degrees.
- Relevant certificates/references
- Academic publications that the candidate wants to submit for assessment (including master's thesis or equivalent). A maximum of 3 publications can be submitted

We kindly ask the applicants to follow the guidelines for applicants to research fellowship positions at the Faculty of Social Sciences closely, please see: <http://link.uib.no/?1js5s>.

Candidates with a master's degree from an institution outside of the Nordic countries, or a 2-year discipline-based master's degree (or the equivalent) in a subject area other than the one associated with the application, may later in the application process be asked to submit an overview of the syllabus for the degree that has been completed.

Applications submitted without a letter of motivation or applications sent as e-mails will not be considered. Only submitted documents will be subjected to an expert assessment.

## General information:

Additional information about the position is obtainable by contacting CET Researcher Siddharth Sareen, e-mail [siddharth.sareen@uib.no](mailto:siddharth.sareen@uib.no), phone + 45 30 24 46 21 or CET Director Håvard Haarstad, e-mail [havard.haarstad@uib.no](mailto:havard.haarstad@uib.no), phone +47 55 58 45 81.

Practical questions regarding the application procedures should be directed to adviser Bodil Hægland, e-mail: [bodil.hagland@uib.no](mailto:bodil.hagland@uib.no).

Appointed research fellows will be admitted to the doctoral education program at the Faculty of Social Sciences. Further information about the program is available on the webpage <http://www.uib.no/en/svf/37940/doctoral-education>. Questions about the program may be directed to senior officer Hanne Gravermoen, e-mail: [hanne.gravermoen@uib.no](mailto:hanne.gravermoen@uib.no), phone: +47 55 58 90 68.

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 backgrounds. 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.

For further information about the recruitment process, click [here](#).

## **Life as a PhD candidate at UiB**

Marion Claireaux tells about life and work as a PhD candidate at UiB.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrt6VxMeJ4&index=2&list=PLf8ZIYfAO0qjhROTj6SthDbSScg0ISO6G>

## **About The University of Bergen**

The University of Bergen is a renowned educational and research institution, organised into seven faculties and approximately 54 institutes and academic centres. Campus is located in the centre of Bergen with university areas at Nygårdshøyden, Haukeland, Marineholmen, Møllendalsveien and Årstad.

There are seven departments and three centres at Faculty of Social Sciences. [Read more about the faculty and departments.](#)

## **Additional information**

### **Place of service:**

postboks 7802 5020 Bergen (Bergen Municipality)