

Jobbnorge ID: 207487
Deadline: 8/15/2021
Website: <http://www.uis.no/>
Scope: Fulltime
Duration: Fixed Term

PhD Fellowship in Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology

Job description

The University of Stavanger invites applicants for a PhD Fellowship in Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology at the Faculty of Science and Technology, Department of Chemistry, Bioscience and Environmental Technology. The position is vacant from autumn 2021.

This is a trainee position that will give promising researchers an opportunity for academic development through a PhD education leading to a doctoral degree.

The hired candidate will be admitted to the PhD program in Science and Technology. The education includes relevant courses to about six months of study, a dissertation based on independent research, participation in national and international research environments, relevant academic communication, a trial lecture and public defence. Read more about the PhD education at UiS on [our website](#).

The appointment is for three years with research duties exclusively, or four years with both research and 25% compulsory duties. This will be clarified in the recruitment process.

The PhD Fellow will be affiliated with the following project: "Mitochondrial glycolysis as a target for disease control of pathogenic stramenopiles".

About the research project

The world population is expected to grow to 10 billion people in the next 30 years. This expansion means feeding 3 billion more people than we are doing now. This will put an enormous strain on our food production systems. Although food production from agriculture and fisheries has grown enormously over the last 50 years or so, it will not be enough to support our growing world population. A big problem facing agriculture and fisheries is the losses caused by infectious diseases. Although variable year-to-year, these lost harvests could have fed between 0.5-4 billion people each year. For example, the biggest disease for the potato industry, late blight disease, causes several hundred million tonnes of lost crops each year, which could have fed up to one billion people. It is therefore extremely important to control or to eradicate these diseases. Not only to keep feeding the growing world population, but also to produce the food we eat more effectively and sustainably.

We have found a biochemical peculiarity in a group of animal and plant pathogens that we hope to exploit so we can ultimately prevent these diseases from destroying our crops and animals. Most organisms on the planet convert the food they eat into useable energy. The food we eat is converted via several biochemical steps into smaller building blocks of life. These conversions are neatly organised in different compartments of the cells in our bodies. We discovered that the pathogens that cause potato disease, but also diseases in salmon and even humans, have rearranged these conversion pathways in a peculiar manner.

We want to better understand these peculiar rearrangements, as we believe it is a drug target to control, or possibly eradicate, these diseases. We have teamed up with experts in Norway and abroad, including industry, to help in the fight against diseases that prevent us from feeding the world. Collaborators are Professor Edmund Kunji at the University of Cambridge (UK), Professor Pieter van West at the University of Aberdeen (UK), Dr. Anastasios Tsaoasis at the University of Kent (UK), and Professor Siver Moestue at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Trondheim.

This position is part of a larger project and two postdoctoral fellows are already employed on this project.

Qualification requirements

We are looking for applicants with a strong academic background who have completed a five-year master degree (3+2) within the biological sciences, preferably within molecular biology or biochemistry; or possess corresponding qualifications that could provide a basis for successfully completing a doctorate, preferably acquired recently.

Candidates with experience within non-model microbial eukaryotes will be preferred.

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programmes at the University of Stavanger both the grade for your master's thesis and the weighted average grade of your master's degree must individually be equivalent to or better than a B grade. If you finish your education (masters degree) in the spring of 2021 you are also welcome to apply.

Applicants with an education from an institution with a different grade scale than A-F, and/or with other types of credits than sp/ECTS, must attach a confirmed conversion scale that shows how the grades can be compared with the Norwegian A-F scale and a Diploma Supplement or similar that explains the scope of the subject that are included in the education. [You can use these conversion scales to calculate your points for admission.](#)

Emphasis is also placed on your:

- proven record in the above mentioned fields, ideally via publications in international scientific journals
- motivation and potential for research within the field
- professional and personal skills for completing the doctoral degree within the timeframe
- ability to work independently and in a team, be innovative and creative
- ability to work structured and handle a heavy workload
- having a good command of both oral and written English

You must attach a cover letter explaining your interest in the project and the relevance of your background and experience.

Requirements for competence in English

A good proficiency in English is required for anyone attending the PhD program. International applicants must document this by taking one of the following tests with the following results:

- TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (IBT). Minimum result: 90
- IELTS - International English Language Testing Service. Minimum result: 6.5
- Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) og Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) from the University of Cambridge
- PTE Academic - Pearson Test of English Academic. Minimum result: 62

The following applicants are exempt from the above requirements:

- Applicants with one year of completed university studies in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, USA
- Applicants with an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma
- Applicants with a completed bachelor's and / or master's degrees taught in English in a EU/EEA country

We offer

- a PhD education in a large, exciting and socially important organisation
- an ambitious work community which is developing rapidly. We strive to include employees at all levels in strategic decisions and promote an informal atmosphere with a flat organisational structure.
- colleague-based guidance programme ([NyTi](#)) if teaching is a part of your position
- salary in accordance with the State Salary Scale, l.pl 17.515, code 1017, NOK 491 200 gross per year with salary development according to seniority in the position. A higher salary may be considered in special cases. From the salary, 2% is deducted as a contribution to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund.
- automatic membership in the [Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund](#), which provides favourable insurance- and retirement benefits
- favourable membership terms at a gym and at the [SIS sports club](#) at campus
- employment with an Inclusive Workplace organisation which is committed to reducing sick leave, increasing the proportion of employees with reduced working capacity, and increasing the number of professionally active seniors
- ["Hjem-jobb-hjem"](#) discounted public transport to and from work
- as an employee in Norway, you will have access to an optimal health service, as well as good pensions, generous maternity/paternity leave, and a competitive salary. Nursery places are guaranteed and reasonably priced
- [relocation programme](#)
- [language courses](#): On this page you can see which language courses you may be entitled to (look up "language courses" under employment conditions)

Diversity

University of Stavanger values independence, involvement and innovation. Diversity is respected and considered a resource in our work and learning environment. Universal design characterises physical and digital learning environments, and we strive to provide reasonable adjustments for employees with disabilities.

You are encouraged to apply regardless of gender, disability or cultural background.

The university aims to recruit more women within the subject area. If several applicants are considered to have equal qualifications, female applicants will be given priority.

Contact information

More information on the position (and project description) can be obtained from Professor Mark van der Giezen, tel: +47 518 34 493, e-mail: mark.vandergiezen@uis.no or Head of Department Ingunn W. Jolma, e-mail: ingunn.w.jolma@uis.no.

Information about the appointment procedure can be obtained from HR-consultant Rosa Andrade, tel: +47 518 31 191, e-mail: rekruttering@uis.no.

Application

To apply for this position please follow the link "Apply for this job". Your application letter, relevant education and work experience as well as language skills must be registered here. In your application letter, you must state your research interests and motivation for the position.

The following documents must be uploaded as attachments to your application:

- cover letter explaining your interest in the project and the relevance of your background and experience to the position. Applications without a cover letter will not be considered.
- CV with a full summary of your education and experience
- references, certificates/diplomas and other documentation that you consider relevant
- Diploma Supplement or similar and a confirmed conversion scale if this is required
- documentation on competence in English if this is required

- publications or other relevant research work

Applications are evaluated based on the information available in Jobbnorge at the application deadline. You should ensure that your application shows clearly how your skills and experience meet the criteria which are set out above and that you have attached the necessary documentation.

The documentation must be available in either a Scandinavian language or in English. If the total size of the attachments exceeds 30 MB, they must be compressed before upload.

Please note that information on applicants may be published even if the applicant has requested not to be included in the official list of applicants - see [Section 25 of the Freedom of Information Act](#). If your request is not granted, you will be notified.

UiS only considers applications and attachments registered in Jobbnorge.

General information

The engagement is to be made in accordance with the regulations in force concerning State Employees and Civil Servants, and the acts relating to Control of the Export of Strategic Goods, Services and Technology. Candidates who by assessment of the application and attachment are seen to conflict with the criteria in the latter law will be prohibited from recruitment to UiS.

Employment as PhD Fellow is regulated in "[Regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment for the posts of post-doctoral research fellow and research fellow, research assistant and resident](#)".

Your qualifications for the position, based on documentation registered in Jobbnorge, will be assessed by an internal expert committee. Based on the committee's statement, relevant applicants will be invited to an interview before any recommendations are made. References will also be obtained for relevant candidates. [More about the hiring process on our website](#).

The appointee will be based at the University of Stavanger, with the exception of a stay abroad at a relevant centre of research.

It is a prerequisite that you have a residence which enables you to be present at/available to the academic community during ordinary working hours.

The position has been announced in both Norwegian and English. In the case of differences of meaning between the texts, the English text takes precedence.

UiS - challenge the well-known and explore the unknown

The University of Stavanger (UiS) has about 12,000 students and 1,900 employees. The university has high ambitions. We strive to have an innovative and international profile, and be a driving force in knowledge development and in the process of societal change. Our common direction is driven by consideration for sustainable change and equitable social development, through new ways of managing natural resources and facilitating better cities and local communities. Energy, health and welfare, learning for life are our focus areas.

In constant collaboration and dialogue with our surroundings, regionally, nationally and internationally, we enjoy an open and creative climate for education, research, innovation, dissemination and museum activities. Academic life at the University of Stavanger is organised into six faculties comprising various departments/schools and National Research Centres, as well as the Museum of Archaeology. We are a member of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities. The university is located in the most attractive region in the country with more than 300,000 inhabitants. The Stavanger region has a dynamic labour market and exciting cultural and leisure activities.

Together with our staff and students we will challenge the well-known and explore the unknown.

The Faculty of Science and Technology offers study programs at bachelor, master and doctoral level. The faculty has established close cooperation on research with NORCE (Norwegian Research Centre AS) and the regional industry. A number of master's and doctoral theses are made in collaboration with the industry. The faculty has established research collaborations with universities in the US and Europe, and has developed academic environments that are at the forefront internationally. These include Petroleum and Offshore Technology as well as Risk Management and Societal Safety, which constitute two of the university's strategic focus areas. The faculty has about 2,800 students and approximately 400 employees at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Department of Structural Engineering and Materials Science, Department of Mathematics and Physics, Department of Energy and Petroleum Engineering, Department of Energy Resources and the Department of Safety, Economics and Planning.

The Department of Chemistry, Bioscience and Environmental Technology offers study programs at all levels within the areas Biological Chemistry, Chemistry and Environment. The department is responsible for basic tuition in chemistry at the faculty. There are currently about 60 employees including doctoral and postdoctoral fellows, and 230 students at the department.

Additional information

Place of service:

Ullandhaug 4021 Stavanger (Stavanger Municipality)