



**Jobbnorge ID:** 222621

**Deadline:** 5/10/2022

**Website:** <https://uit.no/startside>

**Scope:** Fulltime

**Duration:** Fixed Term

The Arctic University Museum of Norway and Academy of Fine Arts

## PhD in invertebrate ancient DNA in northern ecosystems

### The position

A position as a PhD candidate in invertebrate ancient DNA in northern ecosystems is available at [the Arctic University Museum of Norway](https://uit.no/startside), UiT. You will conduct research as a part of the newly established Norwegian Centre for Arctic Ecosystem Genomics ([ArcEcoGen](https://uit.no/startside)) and will be part of the terrestrial working group. The position is a fixed term position for a duration of four years. The nominal length of the PhD programme is three years. The fourth year is distributed as 25 % each year and will consist of collection work, outreach, teaching, and other duties for the Arctic University Museum. The objective of the position is to complete research training to the level of a doctoral degree.

The workplace is at UiT in Tromsø. You must be able to start in the position within a reasonable time after receiving the offer.

Research at the ArcEcoGen focuses on the combined effect of humans, climate, and biota on northern ecosystem dynamics in the past, present, and future using environmental DNA (eDNA) techniques. A key goal of ArcEcoGen is to build up a diverse, rigorous, and internationally leading research group in ecosystem genomics. Norway has exceptionally well-covered DNA barcode reference libraries of local flora and fauna, totalling ~20,000 species covered. In addition, the large natural history collections at The Museum will be available for creating complementary reference libraries. Our collections also include sediment samples from arctic and alpine lakes as well as DNA extracts from sediments and organisms. We also have fully equipped laboratories and infrastructure for recovery and analyses of modern, ancient, and eDNA, as well as field equipment for sediment coring. We are currently recruiting PhDs, postdocs, and associate professors as a part of a recent Aurora Centre funding award.

### The position's field of research

The position will focus on increasing our understanding of long-term changes in northern ecosystems with a focus on terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates. While we already have explored patterns of plant and mammal sedimentary ancient DNA from many sites in the north, this position will extend the research to other parts of the ecosystem by exploring patterns in terrestrial invertebrates, such as earthworms, nematodes and arthropods, and pelagic aquatic invertebrates. These data will be explored to include trait analyses and other proxies, which will increase our understanding of different environmental drivers on ecosystem development and changes. The position holder will also participate in teaching, outreach, and collection work as a part of their duty work. It is expected that the position holder will participate in research group collaboration and will also be encouraged to apply for a research stay abroad at one of our collaborating institutions.

The applicants must present a description outlining the academic basis of the PhD project. The project description shall not exceed 2 pages, literature references included. It must include a description of the theme, research question(s) and a reasoning of the choices. It should also indicate the methodologies to be used. The final project description will be developed in cooperation with the supervisor.

### Contact

For further information about the position, please contact Associate Professor Peter Heintzman:

- phone: +47 77620741
- email: [peter.d.heintzman@uit.no](mailto:peter.d.heintzman@uit.no)

or Professor Inger Greve Alsos:

- phone: +47 77620796
- email: [inger.g.alsos@uit.no](mailto:inger.g.alsos@uit.no)

or museum director Dr Geir Rudolfsen

- phone: +47 77646881
- email: [geir.rudolfsen@uit.no](mailto:geir.rudolfsen@uit.no)

## Qualifications

Required qualifications:

- A master's degree in biological sciences or subject relevant to the research description
- Knowledge of taxonomy and ecology of terrestrial invertebrates relevant to northern/Arctic ecosystems
- Basic knowledge and experience of genetic applications in ecology (such as, but not limited to, DNA barcoding, metabarcoding, or shotgun metagenomics)
- Excellent English language skills (written and spoken)

Desirable qualifications:

- Experience in genetic wet lab methods (such as DNA extraction, PCR, library preparation)
- Basic experience in bioinformatic and statistical analysis of high-throughput sequence data
- Knowledge of ecology/palaeoecology
- A relevant publication record
- Command of a Scandinavian language

Personal qualities:

- Ability to contribute to a well-functioning, inclusive and productive research environment
- Networking skills
- Ability to collaborate
- Ability to cooperate and communicate well with other members of staff
- Desire to disseminate research through a variety of media to scientific and public audiences

Qualification with a master's degree is required before commencement in the position. If you are near completion of your master's degree, you may still apply and submit a draft version of the thesis and a statement from your supervisor or institution indicating when the degree will be obtained. You must still submit your transcripts for the master's degree with your application.

As many as possible should have the opportunity to undertake organized research training. If you already hold a PhD or have equivalent competence, we will not appoint you to this position.

## Admission to the PhD programme

For employment in the PhD position, you must be qualified for admission to the PhD programme at the [Faculty of Biosciences, Fisheries and Economics](#) and participate in organized doctoral studies within the employment period.

Admission normally requires:

- A bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS and a master's degree of 120 ECTS, or an integrated master's degree of 300 ECTS.
- A master's thesis with a scope corresponding to at least 30 ECTS for a master's degree of 120 ECTS.
- A master's thesis with a scope corresponding to at least 20 ECTS for an integrated master's degree of 300 ECTS.

Grade requirements applies both to the master thesis as well as courses part of the master's degree. The minimum requirements are grade C or better on the master's degree, and grade C or better on courses that are part of the master's degree. A grade lower than C in one course may be compensated by a higher grade than C in another course. If the applicant has two subjects with the grade D or lower, the applicant is not qualified for admission. A more detailed description of admission requirements can be found [here](#).

Applicants with a foreign education will be subjected to an evaluation of whether the educational background is equal to Norwegian higher education, following national guidelines from [NOKUT](#). Depending on which country the education is from, one or two additional years of university education may be required to fulfil admission requirements, e.g. a 4-year bachelor's degree and a 2-year master's degree.

If you are employed in the position, you will be provisionally admitted to the PhD programme. Application for final admission must be submitted no later than six weeks after taking up the position.

## Inclusion and diversity

UiT The Arctic University of Norway is working actively to promote equality, gender balance and diversity among employees and students, and to create an inclusive and safe working environment. We believe that inclusion and diversity are a strength and we want employees with different competencies, professional experience, life experience and perspectives.

If you have a disability, a gap in your CV or immigrant background, we encourage you to tick the box for this in your application. If there are qualified applicants, we invite at least one in each group for an interview. If you get the job, we will adapt the working conditions if you need it. Apart from selecting the right candidates, we will only use the information for anonymous statistics.

## We offer

- A highly competent research environment
- Good career opportunities
- A good academic environment with dedicated colleagues
- Flexible working hours and a state collective pay agreement
- Pension scheme through the state pension fund
- More practical information for working and living in Norway can be found here: <https://uit.no/staffmobility>

## Application

Your application must include:

- Cover letter explaining your motivation and research interests
- CV: two-pages summarizing education, positions, academic work, relevant skills and experience
- Diploma for bachelor's and master's degree
- Transcript of grades/academic record for bachelor's and master's degree
- Explanation of the grading system for foreign education (Diploma Supplement if available)
- Documentation of [English proficiency](#)
- A list of your academic production and a brief description (2-3 sentences) of your contribution to each
- 2-3 references with contact information
- Master's thesis, and any other academic works
- Project description: a brief research plan related to the position's field of research (1-2 pages)

Qualification with a master's degree is required before commencement in the position. If you are near completion of your master's degree, you may still apply and submit a draft version of the thesis and a statement from your supervisor or institution indicating when the degree will be obtained. You must still submit your transcripts for the master's degree with your application.

All documentation to be considered must be in a Scandinavian language or English. Diplomas and transcripts must also be submitted in the original language, if not in English or Scandinavian. We only accept applications and documentation sent via Jobbnorge within the application deadline.

## General information

The appointment is made in accordance with State regulations and guidelines at UiT. At our website, you will find more [information for applicants](#).

A shorter period of appointment may be decided when the PhD Fellow has already completed parts of their research training programme or when the appointment is based on a previous qualifying position PhD Fellow, research assistant, or the like in such a way that the total time used for research training amounts to three years.

Remuneration for the position of PhD Fellow is in accordance with the State salary scale code 1017. A compulsory contribution of 2 % to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund will be deducted.

We process personal data given in an application or CV in accordance with the Personal Data Act (Offentleglova). According to the Personal Data Act information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure. You will receive advance notification in the event of such publication, if you have requested non-disclosure.

## UiT - Developing the High North

UiT is a multi-campus research university in Norway and the northernmost university of the world. Our central location in the High North, our broad and diverse research and study portfolio, and our interdisciplinary qualities make us uniquely suited to meet the challenges of the future. At UiT you can explore global issues from a close-up perspective.

Credibility, academic freedom, closeness, creativity and commitment shall be hallmarks of the relationship between our employees, between our employees and our students and between UiT and our partners.

## Additional information

### Place of service:

Hansine Hansens veg 18 9019 Tromsø (Tromsø - Romsa Municipality)