



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

**University of
Bergen**
Faculty of
Psychology

Jobbnorge ID: 280431

Deadline: 7/31/2025

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

Scope: Fulltime

Duration: Fixed Term

PhD position in Cultural and Cognitive Evolution at the Department of Psychosocial Science

UiB - Knowledge that shapes society

Through robust and close interaction with the world around us - globally, nationally and locally - we shall be instrumental in building a society based on knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Do you want to take part in shaping the future?

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYaThmlq6Kg>

PhD position

There is a vacancy for a PhD position in Cultural and Cognitive Evolution at the Department of Psychosocial Science, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen (UiB), in association with an NFR-financed Centre of Excellence, the Centre for Early Sapiens Behaviour ([SapienCE](#)). The position is for a fixed-term period of 3 years, with the possibility of a 4th year for career-promoting work, such as teaching duties at the department. The position is funded by the Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen.

About the project/work tasks:

- The **SapienCE** Centre of Excellence, established in 2017, focuses on the behavioural origins of Homo sapiens in southern Africa between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago. Its main goal is to unravel where, when, and why early humans started to think and behave the way we do today, by combining archaeological excavations and dating with climate modelling on the one hand and research on human minds and sociality on the other.
- The **PhD position** will be part of an interdisciplinary project with the goal to investigate the cognitive and social behaviour (such as knowledge acquisition, organization, and transmission, recognition processes, or risk assessment and decision-making under uncertainty) involved in locating, assessing, and harnessing food sources. It will tie in with on-going research on the role of mushrooms for cultural and cognitive evolution.
- Depending on the candidate's expertise and interests, this can be expanded in one of several directions, including
 - psychological experiments on risk assessment & decision-making under uncertainty
 - transmission-chain studies on how knowledge, attitudes, and values change over time and subject to which factors
 - phylogenetic analyses of evolutionary trajectories across cultures
- Main **supervisor** will be Prof. Dr. Andrea Bender (UiB); co-supervision will be determined depending on the specialization chosen by the candidate.

[More information about SapienCE is available on this website.](#)

Qualifications and personal qualities:

- At the time of application, the applicant must hold a master's degree or the equivalent in psychology or a related field with a focus on cognition such as anthropology, archaeology, biology, or cognitive science.
- For admission to the doctoral programme, grade B or above for the master's thesis is normally required.
- The applicant must have expertise in at least one systematic and analytical methodology, such as:
 - designing, running, and analysing cognitive or social-psychology experiments (ideally in the context of cross-cultural and/or cross-linguistic research)
 - cultural transmission studies
 - anthropological fieldwork with a focus on ethnomycology or ethnobiology
 - large-scale (ethnographic) database construction
 - phylogenetic comparative analyses with Bayesian computational tools
- The applicant must have the ability to work independently and in a structured manner and must be willing and able to cooperate with others. Experience with cross-disciplinary collaboration is especially desirable and will be considered an advantage.
- High proficiency in both written and oral English is required.
- Broad scientific interest beyond the applicant's own field is expected. Familiarity with research on cultural and cognitive evolution, risk appraisals, and/or food psychology will be considered an advantage.

Personal and relational qualities will be emphasized. Research experience, ambitions, and potential will also count when evaluating the candidates.

The University of Bergen is subjected to the regulation for export control system. The regulation will be applied in the processing of the applications. If the university has not received the assessment from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within 6-12 weeks after applying for an export license, any offer of employment will be rescinded.

About the PhD position:

About the PhD position: The duration of the PhD position is 3 years, with the possibility of a fourth year, consisting of 25 % career-promoting work (e.g. teaching responsibilities at the department) distributed over the employment period. The fourth year is contingent on the qualifications of the candidate and the teaching needs of the department, and will be decided by the Head of department upon appointment. You cannot be employed in a PhD-position for more than one fixed term period at the same institution. Place of work is Bergen, Norway.

About the PhD programme: As a PhD Candidate, you must participate in an approved educational programme for a PhD degree within a period of 3 years. When your qualification for the position is evaluated, you will also be evaluated for admission to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Psychology.

You will find further information about the PhD programme at the Faculty of Psychology [here](#).

We can offer:

- Exciting development opportunities as part of your role in a strong professional environment
- An annual salary of NOK 541 800 before taxes (position code 1017) according to the state salary scale. Further promotions are made according to length of service. A higher salary may be considered for applicants with specialist education.
- Enrolment in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Good [welfare benefits](#)

Your application must include:

- A brief (max 1 page) account of your research interests and motivation for applying for the position. This should include a paragraph each on how the qualification criteria described above are met, and how your research interests pertain to the advertised position.
- The names and contact information for two reference persons. One of these must be the main supervisor for the master's thesis or equivalent thesis.
- CV (in English)
- Transcripts and diplomas (higher education)
- Applicants with foreign education must enclose certified translations to English or Scandinavian if the original diploma and grade transcripts are not already in one of these languages.
- Important: Applicants with foreign education must also enclose a confirmation from [HK-dir](#) (or former NOKUT) that the education is recognized to be in accordance with a Norwegian master's degree. The review from HK-dir may take some time and the application should be sent to HK-dir as soon as you have decided to apply for the position. If no answer within the application deadline, please enclose documentation from HK-dir that they have received your application. Certain educational degrees from selected countries have an automatic recognition, please check this website: [Automatic recognition - a quicker alternative | HK-dir \(hkdir.no\)](#). If you found your educational degree here, you must download the automatic recognition and enclose it to your application.
- Relevant certificates
- A list of any works of a scientific nature (publications, conference posters, talks, etc.).
- Any publications in your name you want to be included in the evaluation of your application (including your master's thesis or the equivalent)

Please note that applications, along with the information and attachments linked to the application in JobbNorge, will be evaluated after the closing date for applications. Attachments must be in English or a Scandinavian language, and any translations must be certified. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all the necessary information has been submitted by the closing date for applications.

It is particularly important that each of the attachments that are to be taken into account in the assessment is uploaded in full as an attachment to your application.

General information:

Detailed information about the position can be obtained by contacting:

- Andrea Bender, Department of Psychosocial Science, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen, Andrea.Bender@uib.no, Tel: +47 55 58 90 81

Diversity is a strength that enables us to solve our tasks even better. UiB therefore needs qualified employees regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, worldview, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and age.

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.

We encourage applicants with disabilities, immigrant backgrounds, or gaps in their CV to apply. By indicating such circumstances in your application, you may receive favourable consideration. We ensure that at least one qualified applicant from each of these groups is invited for an interview as part of our commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunity. 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=PLf8ZIYfAO0qjhROTj6SthDbSScg0lSO6G>

About UiB

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 five departments and two centres at Faculty of Psychology. [Read more about the faculty](#) and [departments](#).

Additional information

Contact person:

Andrea Bender, Professor

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Place of service:

Christiesgate 12 5015 Bergen (Bergen Municipality)