



**Jobbnorge ID:** 287356  
**Deadline:** 1/20/2026  
**Website:** <http://www.nord.no/no>  
**Scope:** Fulltime  
**Duration:** Fixed Term

Do you want to research how digitalization transforms communication and democracy?

## PhD Research Fellow in Social Science - Strategic Communication (1-2 positions)

### This is Nord University

Do you want to help create knowledge that makes a difference? At Nord University, we develop future solutions through education, research, and collaboration with the society around us.

Together, we shape the future with roots in the North and eyes on what lies ahead.

**Nord in the world - knowledge for the future.**

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzrda-wPlc8>

### About the position

Nord University's Faculty of Social Sciences invites applications for 1-2 temporary full-time positions as PhD Research Fellow in Social Science, with a thematic focus on Strategic Communication. The position is affiliated with the Research group for [Journalism and new media](#), and linked to the specialization [Governance and Democracy in Transition](#) in the PhD programme.

The appointment period is normally three years without teaching duties, but a four-year period with 25 % duties may be considered. Duties may include teaching and/or research-related tasks depending on the candidate's competence and faculty needs.

Today, the public increasingly seeks information through search engines, social media, and artificial intelligence rather than consulting traditional, verified sources. This raises important questions about how public information is disseminated, how misunderstandings and breaches of trust occur, and how democracy can uphold principles of transparency and openness in a digital age.

The PhD project will examine how technological developments and new digital tools are transforming organizational communication, public communication, and democratic dialogue — and how these changes simultaneously affect information security and trust. The project may contribute to addressing these challenges by exploring, among other things:

- how citizens navigate a fragmented information landscape,
- which digital tools and strategies public and private actors use to reach audiences,
- and how changes in communication practices influence democratic participation, information security, and the principle of public access to information.

The position is based in Bodø and physical presence during working hours is expected. If required duties are assigned, tasks may also be carried out at other Nord University campuses.

### Qualification requirements

- To be admitted to the PhD programme, applicants must hold a bachelor's and master's degree (120 ECTS), or equivalent, in a relevant social science discipline and/or history. Applicants with degrees in the humanities or other relevant fields may be considered on an individual basis.
- Candidates must demonstrate solid knowledge of relevant social science theories and methods necessary to carry out the proposed PhD project.
- Admission to the faculty's PhD programme is a prerequisite. See admission requirements: [PhD in Social Science](#)
- Applicants must meet the grade requirements for PhD admission (typically a B average in the master's degree).
- Strong English skills, both written and oral, are required. For applicants from outside the Nordic countries, documentation may be required (see [PhD regulations, section 6-1](#)). The dissertation may be written in English or Norwegian (or another Scandinavian language).
- A final project proposal must be approved and formalized within three months of employment.
- Candidates who already hold a PhD are not eligible.

### Qualified applicants will be ranked according to the following criteria

- Submitted project proposal
- Academic background and grades from master's studies
- Research experience
- Relevant academic background
- Personal suitability
- Motivation and feasibility of the proposed PhD project

## We offer

Salary according to the Norwegian government's pay scale, position code 1017, currently NOK 550,800 per year. Statutory contributions to the [Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund](#).

- Excellent loan, insurance, and pension schemes
- A creative and collegial work environment
- A workplace in continuous development
- Flexible working hours
- Active university sports teams

## General information

The person who is appointed must abide by the applicable laws, agreements, and directives. The responsibilities and duties associated with the position may change with future reorganization at Nord University.

The public sector workforce is expected to reflect the diversity of the population in general. Nord University therefore encourages qualified candidates with disabilities, gaps in their CV, immigrant backgrounds or different life experience to apply.

If applicants indicate they have disabilities or gaps in their CV, their details may be used anonymously for the purposes of governmental annual review.

## Contact information

Further information about the position can be obtained by contacting:

- Head of research group, Associate Professor Karianne Sørgård Olsen, phone +47 75 51 75 77, email [karianne.s.olsen@nord.no](mailto:karianne.s.olsen@nord.no)
- Head of specialisation, Professor Frank Jacob, phone +47 75 51 72 26, email [frank.jacob@nord.no](mailto:frank.jacob@nord.no)
- Administrative questions: Senior Advisor Anneli M. Watterud, phone +47 75 51 75 72, email [anneli.m.watterud@nord.no](mailto:anneli.m.watterud@nord.no)

## Application process

Applications will be assessed by an expert committee. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.

The faculty reserves the right not to appoint candidates who are academically qualified but for whom adequate supervision cannot be provided.

## Application requirements

Applications must be submitted electronically by **January 20, 2026**.

### The application should include:

- Project proposal (approx. 5-7 pages) outlining the PhD idea, theoretical framework, methodological approach, and progress plan
- Cover letter describing your motivation for applying
- Complete CV (education, work and teaching experience, list of publications if applicable)
- Diplomas and official transcripts from bachelor's and master's degrees, and other relevant certificates
- Documentation that all requirements for admission to the PhD programme are met
- Digital version or link to completed master's thesis and any other academic work
- Names and contact information for 2-3 references (name, relationship, email, phone number)
- Applicants from countries outside Scandinavia must include a Diploma Supplement in English or in a Scandinavian language
- Other relevant activities to be considered in the evaluation
- Applicants from outside the EU/EEA area may be asked to provide additional documentation of their education

**All documents must be uploaded as attachments to the electronic application form.**

**It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the complete documentation within the deadline.**

A public list of applicants will be prepared after the deadline. Please note that information about applicants may be disclosed even if a request for confidentiality has been made. Applicants requesting confidentiality must justify this in the application. They will be notified in advance if disclosure is necessary.

Reference number: 30086340

## Nord University

Through research, education and social engagement, Nord University contributes to the creation of a sustainable future.

In cooperation with society, business and industry in Northern and Central Norway, our 11,500 students and 1,350 staff promote innovative solutions and knowledge-based practice, both locally and internationally.

Nord University has four strategic focus areas: blue and green growth, sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship, societal security, and health, welfare and education.

**The Faculty of Social Sciences (FSV)** educates social scientists and professionals who meet society's need for innovation in welfare, development and communication.

The Faculty offers a PhD in Social Science. The Faculty of Social Sciences has 1,900 students and 200 employees.

The professional community is organised into the following five divisions: History, geography and international relations; Journalism and creative media; Social work; Organisation, leadership and working life; and Sociology, research methods and philosophy of science.

Read more: [www.nord.no/fsv](http://www.nord.no/fsv)

## **Additional information**

### **Place of service:**

Universitetsalléen 11 8026 Bodø (Bodø Municipality)