



Jobbnorge ID: 290386
Deadline: 2/1/2026
Website: <https://www.usn.no/>
Scope: Fulltime
Duration: Fixed Term

Faculty of Humanities, Sports, and Educational Sciences has a temporary position available as

Applicants for the class 2026 of the PhD program for humanities, culture, and educational sciences.

About the position

We are looking for applicants with an exciting research idea who is motivated to pursue a doctorate in the fields of humanities, culture, and educational sciences in an academic and social scholarly environment. You could become our new colleague in one of our departments at the [Faculty of Humanities, Culture, and Educational Sciences](#). The Ph.d. positions are available from spring 2026, with a start date no later than August 2026.

The Pd.D. program in humanities and culture and education sciences is theme-based and interdisciplinary. The doctorate has three main fields of study: language, literature, and history; cultural studies, art, and sports; educational research, learning practices, and pedagogy, all of which provide a solid foundation for interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge development for the future.

The programme's overarching objective is to educate candidates who are at the forefront of knowledge nationally and internationally within their fields and who master the theory and methods of the field.

We are announcing three positions within each of the three subject areas of the PhD program:

- The scientific area of Language, Literature, and History has a humanistic academic foundation and focus on studies within linguistics in a broad sense, specific language subjects (e.g. English, Norwegian, and Spanish), literary and text-related subjects, as well as history. PhD projects within this area should have themes related to the mentioned fields.
- The scientific area of Cultural Studies, Arts, and Sports has an academic focus on scientific studies of culture, arts, and bodily cultural practices in a broad sense, rooted in cultural studies, anthropology, sociology, history, and philosophy, as well as art- and practice-based research. PhD projects in this area should aim to examine meaning-making cultural, aesthetic, bodily cultural practices, phenomena through cultural analytical perspectives and/or aesthetic practice and aesthetic products.
- The scientific area of Educational Research, Learning Practices, and Pedagogy encompasses issues within pedagogy, professional learning, and education policy in kindergarten, school, and higher education, career guidance and counselling, formal and informal learning within education, organizational and professional life, technology, and learning. PhD projects within this area should be oriented towards educational scientific research.

The doctoral program emphasizes studies that have an interdisciplinary, professional, and work-oriented profile within and between the three subject areas.

The Ph.d positions are intended to give promising researchers the opportunity for academic development through doctoral training. It includes relevant coursework, regular participation in research seminars, a thesis based on independent research, engagement with national and international research communities, relevant dissemination activities, a trial lecture and the public defence. The programme also offers opportunities for participation in the [university's research schools](#). Applicants who accept an offer of employment are required, within three months of commencing the position, to apply for and obtain admission to the PhD programme.

PhD research fellows are employed for a period of three years (research training) or four years with 25% career-promoting duties, depending on the agreement with the Head of department. Your immediate supervisor will be Head of the department to which the position is affiliated. You will also become a member of one of the faculty's research groups. The position requires regular presence and availability to the academic environment at your workplace during ordinary working hours. The place of work will be agreed upon appointment.

About the PhD project

The application must present your research idea for a scientifically grounded and feasible Ph.D. project in a project proposal of five pages (see further details below). The proposal must clearly state which of the three scientific areas your research idea belongs to and that you are applying for. The application must also specify which research group(s) at the faculty's departments the project is intended to be affiliated with; [see the faculty's website for an overview of departments and their research groups](#).

Applicants are encouraged to contact the leader of the relevant research group for their preparation of the application to learn about the group's work and to get advice on the Ph.d.project proposal.

Expectations for the position

- Complete the PhD education through participation in the programme's academic and social activities within the employment period
- Collaborate with supervisors and other relevant academic staff at the faculty

- Conduct research in accordance with recognized principles of quality and research ethics
- Participate actively in research group(s), in the community of Ph.D. students in the Ph.D programme, and in the wider academic environment at the faculty and the university

Qualification requirements

- Master's degree (120 ECTS credits) (or equivalent qualifications) within the subject areas of the PhD programme. The master's degree must include a thesis of at least 30 credits and be obtained before the application deadline for the position.
- normally have an average grade of B or better on the master's degree.
- have prepared a preliminary project description relevant to the Ph.D. programme

Language requirements

The applicant must be able to demonstrate/document that they are fluent in English - orally and in writing, and may be asked to provide a valid certificate from one of the following tests:

- 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) or Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) from Cambridge University
- 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, the United Kingdom, the United States
- applicants with a completed master's degree with English as the language of instruction in an EU/EEA country
- applicants who are exempt based on the Norwegian Directorate of Higher Education and Skills Higher Education Entrance Qualification (GSU) list
- applicants from Norway can confirm their English proficiency by submitting their high school (videregående skole) diploma.

Applicants from Norway can confirm their English proficiency by attaching their high school diploma.

Norwegian language proficiency requirements

Applicants who do not have Norwegian or a Nordic language as their mother tongue are not required to document their Norwegian or Nordic language proficiency for this position. However, a high level of Norwegian or Scandinavian language proficiency may be necessary depending on the project and scientific area.

Project description

Applicants must submit a project plan describing their research idea together with their application. The project plan should not exceed five pages and should include:

1. Introduction (title, project problem statement and research questions, and project background)
2. A review of relevant research in the field
3. Theory
4. Method
5. Progress plan
6. Potential results and /or hypotheses
7. References

Applications with project plans exceeding 5 pages will not be considered.

The final project plan and progress plan shall be drawn up in consultation with the supervisor(s) during the first three months of the employment period.

To complete a doctoral degree, it is important that you can:

- demonstrate that you have the motivation and potential for research within the field
- work independently and participate in teamwork
- work in a structured manner, set goals, and make plans to achieve them
- present and discuss your research with other fellows, in research groups and with other researchers at the university, nationally and internationally
- engage and contribute constructively with feedback
- work constructively under pressure or in adversity
- analyze data, evaluate different perspectives and draw well-founded conclusions
- be flexible and be open to adjusting the project plan as needed
- have the professional and personal qualifications to complete the doctoral program within the employment period

When evaluating the applications, special emphasis will be placed on

- the applicant's formal qualifications
- the scientific quality and feasibility of the project
- clear anchoring in the relevant scientific area of the applications to which the applicant is applying
- the project's relevance to the thematic and interdisciplinary profile of the PhD program
- desired affiliation with relevant research group(s) at the faculty
- personal qualities

We offer

- research training in a large organization with an important social mission
- career guidance throughout your doctoral studies
- an ambitious work community and an inclusive work environment
- opportunity to take courses in Norwegian
- salary according to the State salary scale for research fellows (position code 1017) NOK 550,800. In special cases, code 1378 may be used.
- statutory contributions to the State Pension Fund are deducted from the salary.
- membership in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund, which ensures good pension, insurance, and loan schemes

General information

Your application will be evaluated by an appointed expert committee. The expert committee will review your project plan and competence for the position based on the documentation you have registered in Jobbnorge.

Based on the expert committee's statement, relevant applicants will be invited to an interview. References will also be obtained for relevant candidates.

Appointments with us are made in accordance with the principles of the Civil Service Act and legislation regulating the export of knowledge, technology, and services. If your application is deemed to be in violation of the criteria in the latter legislation, it will be rejected without further consideration.

As an employee at the University of South-Eastern Norway, you must at all times comply with changes in the field.

Contact information

For questions about the position:

Vice Dean Tine Sophie Prøitz, email: tine.prøitz@usn.no

Professor Heike Speitz, email: heike.speitz@usn.no

For questions about the application process:

HR Advisor Jeanette Gomnes Wilhelmsen, email: jeanette.g.wilhelmsen@usn.no

How to apply

If you find this position interesting and believe it matches your qualifications, please send us your application electronically via "Apply for the position" on this page. In your application text, you must clearly state your qualifications and motivation for the position in accordance with the stated requirements for the position.

The application must include:

- certified bachelor's and master's degree certificates (120 ECTS credits). The certificates must be in Scandinavian or English.
- explanation of the grading system for foreign education (transcript supplement if available)
- Master's thesis. If this was written jointly, you must attach a brief statement about your contribution
- other relevant certificates or diplomas
- 5-page project plan for the doctoral project and letter of motivation
- documentation of Norwegian and English language skills
- any scientific publications and a list of these
- contact information for up to three references.

Please note that all documents must be in a Scandinavian language or in English. The translations must be certified. If the attachments exceed 30 MB in total, they must be compressed before uploading.

If you have a higher education degree from abroad, it must be approved by the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Competence. Attach documentation that it has been approved. You must have submitted your application for approval before the application deadline for this position expires; the receipt (e-mail) must be attached. The approval must be sent later and is a prerequisite for employment.

The application will be assessed based on the information available in Jobbnorge at the application deadline. Therefore, make sure that the application clearly shows how.

The University of South-Eastern Norway is Charter & Code certified by the European Commission and has the right to use the HR Excellence in Research (HRS4R) logo. The university is also a member of the EURAXESS network, which promotes good working conditions for mobile researchers.

Get to know us

The University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) is one of the largest higher education institutions in the country, with approximately 18,000 students and 1,900 employees.

The Faculty of Humanities, Sports and Education (HIU) has a broad study portfolio with activities at virtually all USN campuses.

We offer programs in major professional fields such as primary school teaching and preschool teaching, as well as programs in disciplinary traditions such as language and literature, art, culture, folk music, and sports.

About USN

At USN you'll contribute to a mission that matters. The University of Southeastern Norway was established in 2018, following the merger of several smaller university colleges, some with historical roots dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. We are committed to collaborative problem-solving, aiming to provide solutions that benefit our communities - locally as well as globally.

Our diverse campuses are located from the beautiful fjords to the snow-covered mountains. USN spans three Norwegian counties, with campuses in Bø, Drammen, Horten, Kongsberg, Notodden, Porsgrunn, Ringerike, and Rauland.

Wherever you're located, you will engage in meaningful work amidst a thriving student culture and innovative research environments. Our university offers a wide range of high-quality and internationally recognized academic programs. With a strong emphasis on profession-oriented and socially relevant education, we prepare our students for the workforce and equip them with the necessary skills to make a positive impact on society.

At USN, we deeply value and cultivate our relationships with local communities. Our staff and students are actively engaged in a variety of projects that address societal challenges, driving change and innovation. We place a strong emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity, and we strive to shape future leaders, innovators, and change-makers.

Read more about working for us: (link to) [Work for us - Universitetet i Sørøst-Norge](#)

Additional information

Contact persons:

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- Heike Speitz, Professor
Phone: +4735026544 | E-mail: heike.speitz@usn.no

Place of service:

- Raveien 215 3184 Borre (Horten Municipality)
- Kjølnes Ring 56 3918 Porsgrunn (Porsgrunn Municipality)
- Akademiet 2 3864 Rauland (Vinje Municipality)
- Grønland 58 3045 Drammen (Drammen Municipality)
- Gullbringvegen 36 3800 Bø i Telemark (Midt-Telemark Municipality)
- Lærerskoleveien 40 3679 Notodden (Notodden Municipality)