Jobbnorge ID: 300049
Deadline: 5/11/2026
Website: http://www.ntnu.no
Scope: Fulltime
Duration: Temporary

The Department of Computer Science has a vacancy for a

PhD Candidate in Hardware-Aware Deep Learning Model Optimization

This is NTNU

NTNU is a broad-based university with a technical-scientific profile and a focus in professional education. The university is located in three cities with headquarters in Trondheim.

At NTNU, 9,000 employees and 43,000 students work to create knowledge for a better world.

You will find more information about working at NTNU and the application process here.

Video: https://youtu.be/Xt-yHCN5QS0

About the position

We invite applications for a PhD position in hardware-aware deep learning optimization at the Department of Computer Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The position is supported by the EU Horizon project CIRES and offers the opportunity to work on cutting-edge research at the intersection of deep learning and computer systems. The successful candidate will join an international and collaborative research environment and contribute to advancing efficient AI systems through close interaction with academic and industry partners within the CIRES project.

Are you motivated to take a step towards a doctorate and open up exciting career opportunities? As a PhD Candidate with us, you will work to achieve your doctorate, and at the same time gain valuable experience that qualifies you for a further career in higher education and research, in and outside academia.

Your immediate leader will be the Head of the Computing Unit.

About the project

This PhD position is part of the EU Horizon project CIRES, which brings together leading academic and industry partners to develop new technologies supporting the objectives of the EU Chips Act. The project focuses on strengthening Europe's capabilities in semiconductor technologies and intelligent computing systems.

At NTNU, the research will investigate hardware-aware and hardware-software co-design methods for edge intelligence. The goal is to develop new techniques that improve the efficiency, performance, and deployability of deep learning models on resource-constrained edge platforms. The PhD candidate will collaborate closely with international project partners and contribute to advancing next-generation AI systems for edge computing. The scientific outcomes are expected to be published in top-tier conferences and journals in the field.

Duties of the position

- Complete the doctoral education until obtaining a doctorate
- Carry out research of good quality within the framework described above
- Academic publications and popular science dissemination
- Participate in the system software group
- Participate in international activities such as conferences and/or research stays at foreign educational institutions
- Teaching (Upon further agreement)
- Other career-promoting work, e.g., summer schools

Be prepared for changes to your work duties after employment.

Required selection criteria

- You must have a relevant master's degree in computer science or equivalent. Your course of study must correspond to a five-year Norwegian course, where 120 credits have been obtained at master's level. Master students can apply, but the master's degree must be obtained and documented before starting the position and no later than 01.06.2026.
- You must have a strong academic background from your previous studies and have an average grade from your Master's degree study, or equivalent education, which is equal to B or better compared to NTNU's grading scale. If you do not have letter grades from previous studies, you must have an equally good academic foundation. If you have a weaker grade background, you may be considered if you can document that you are particularly suitable for a PhD education.
- You must meet the requirements for admission to the faculty's Doctoral Programme.
- Good oral and written presentation skills in English equivalent to IELTS score of 7 or equivalent with TOEFL scores of above 100.

PLEASE NOTE: For detailed information about what the application must contain, see paragraph "About the application".

The appointment is to be made in accordance with NTNUs guidelines for recruitment positions and Regulations for the degrees philosophiae doctor (ph.d.) and philosophiae doctor (ph.d.) in artistic development work at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) for general criteria for the position.

Preferred selection criteria

- At least one first author publication in a recognized journal or conference on a relevant topic in machine learning, embedded systems, and edge intelligence
- Knowledge of accelerator simulators
- Strong knowledge in deep learning, particularly dynamic neural networks
- Experience with accelerator performance modelling
- Strong academic writing skill

Personal characteristics

To complete a doctoral degree (PhD), it is important that you are able to:

- Work independently
- Work in a structured way, set goals and make plans to achieve them
- Present and discuss your research with other professionals
- Get involved and contribute constructively with feedback
- Work constructively under pressure or in the face of adversity
- Show curiosity and a strong motivation for the subject
- Analyze data, assess different perspectives and draw well-founded conclusions
- Be flexible and open to adjusting the plan for the project as needed

Emphasis will be placed on personal qualities.

We offer

- An exciting job with an important mission in society
- Developing tasks in a strong and international professional environment
- Career guidance and follow-up during the PhD period
- Open and inclusive working environment with committed colleagues
- Working capital that can be used to implement the project
- Mentor programme as a new employee at NTNU
- Favorable terms as a member of the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund (SPK)
- Free Norwegian language training at a basic level (A2)

As a PhD Candidate at NTNU, you will have access to employee benefits.

Diversity

Diversity is a strength, and at NTNU we aim to be an employer that reflects the diversity in society and that makes use of the potential of the population's collective skills. Our vision is Knowledge for a better world and our values are creative, critical, constructive and respectful. We believe that an organization that is equal, diverse and gender-balanced is essential for us to achieve our goals.

We strive to attract employees with different skills, life experiences and perspectives to contribute to even better problem solving of our societal mission in research and education.

If you think this position is relevant and interesting, we encourage you to apply, regardless of gender, functional ability and cultural background, or whether you have been out of work for a period of time.

At NTNU we want to increase the proportion of women in scientific positions. We have a number of measures to promote equality.

Salary and conditions

In the position of PhD Candidate, code 1017, your gross salary will normally be NOK 550 800,-per annum depending on qualifications and seniority. A 2% statutory contribution to the State Pension Fund is deducted from the salary.

The employment period is 3 years for doctoral work with possible one year extension if candidate is asked to contribute in teaching assistantship and co-supervision of MSc fellows.

For employment as a PhD Candidate, it is a prerequisite that you gain admission to the PhD programme in Computer Science within three months of your employment contract start date, and that you participate in an organized doctoral programme throughout the period of employment.

The position is conditional on external funding.

As an employee at NTNU, it is important that you keep yourself up to date with academic and organizational changes and adapt to them.

For the necessary professional and social interaction, it is a prerequisite that you are physically present and available to the institution on a daily basis.

The appointment is carried out in accordance with the principles of the State Employees Act, and Export control (legislation that regulates the export of knowledge, technology and services). Candidates who, after assessment of the application and attachments, are considered to bein conflict with the criteria in the latter act, will not be able to be employed.

About the application

The attachments (including a description of your scientific work) must accompany the application as these documents form the basis of the application assessment. The documents must be in English.

Please note: the application will only be assessed on the basis of the information we have received by the application deadline. Therefore, make sure that your application clearly shows how your skills and experience meet the criteria described above. The application and all attachments must be sent electronically via Jobbnorge.no. If you are invited to an interview, you must bring certified copies of certificates and diplomas upon request.

The application must include:

- Transcripts and diplomas for Bachelor's and Master's degrees
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) not exceeding four pages
- Project outline containing proposals for an overall description of research questions (maximum 2 pages)
- Short letter of motivation (400 words/1 page)
- Publications and other relevant research work
- Documentation of proficiency in English
- Names and contact information of three relevant referees

If all, or parts, of your education has been taken abroad, we also ask you to attach documentation of the scope and quality of your entire education, both Bachelor's and Master's education, in addition to other higher education. If your institution uses “diploma supplement” (normal for most European institutions), you must attach this. A description of the documentation required can also be found here. If you already have a statement from Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir), please attach this as well.

Joint work will be considered. If it is difficult to identify your contribution to joint work, you must attach a brief description of your participation.

When assessing the best qualified, we emphasize necessary qualifications such as education, experience and personal suitability. Motivation for the position, ambitions, and potential for research will also count when assessing the candidates.

NTNU recognizes a wide range of academic contributions and has committed itself to The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment and CoARA (responsible assessment of research and recognition of a greater breadth of academic contributions in accordance with NTNU's social mission).

General information

A public list of applicants with name, age, job title and municipality of residence is prepared after the application deadline. If you wish to be exempt from entry on the public applicant list, this must be justified. Assessment will be made in accordance with current legislation. You will be notified if the exemption is not granted.

If you think this position looks interesting and in line with your qualifications, you are welcome to apply.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact Di Liu (Associate Professor), di.liu@ntnu.no.

If you have any questions about the recruitment process, please contact hr@idi.ntnu.no.

Application deadline: 11.05.2026

The city of Trondheim is a modern European city with a rich cultural scene. Trondheim is the tech capital of Norway with a population of 200,000. The Norwegian welfare state, including healthcare, schools, kindergartens and overall equality, is probably the best of its kind in the world. Professional subsidized day-care for children is easily available. Furthermore, Trondheim offers great opportunities for education (including international schools) and possibilities to enjoy nature, culture and family life and has low crime rates and clean air quality.

NTNU - knowledge for a better world

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The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) creates knowledge for a better world and solutions that can change everyday life.

Department of Computer Science

We are the leading academic IT environment in Norway, and offer a wide range of theoretical and applied IT programmes of study at all levels. Our subject areas include hardware, algorithms, visual computing, AI, databases, software engineering, information systems, learning

technology, HCI, CSCW, IT operations and applied data processing. The Department has groups in both Trondheim and Gjøvik. The Department of Computer Science is one of seven departments in the Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering .

Additional information

Contact person:

Di Liu, Førsteamanuensis
Phone: | E-mail: di.liu@ntnu.no

Place of service:

Høgskoleringen 1 7491 Trondheim (Trondheim Municipality)