



About NIFU

NIFU - Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education - is one of Europe's leading research institutes for studies in innovation, research and education. Our research areas cover the entire knowledge policy area - from pre-school and primary education, to higher education, research and innovation.

The institute has national responsibility for the production, analysis and dissemination of statistics and indicators for the Norwegian R&D system. NIFU is an independent research institute with approximately 85 employees and receives basic funding from the Research Council of Norway.

Postdoc Fellowship at NIFU dedicated to the study of Research Quality

About the position

NIFU hereby announces a vacant Postdoc position at our Centre for Research Quality and Policy Impact Studies (R-QUEST). R-QUEST has eight-years funding to explore the nature and mechanisms of research quality. R-QUEST is hosted by NIFU and involves research partners at University of Oslo (UiO), KTH, Aarhus University, University of Manchester and Leiden University, as well as multiple user partners (see www.r-quest.no). This Postdoc position is a two-year employment at NIFU in Oslo.

Research topics and job description

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The centre pursues three main research questions:

- What is research quality? How are notions of research quality negotiated, established and practiced, and what are the mechanisms through which these notions affect policy?
- What are the drivers of high quality research, and what is the role of policy in developing outstanding research?
- What are the effects of high quality research on the society?

The successful candidate will participate in a project addressing these three questions based on comparative empirical research. A comprehensive survey on research quality to researchers in five countries and different fields of research is already conducted, and the candidate will participate in further data collection (case studies; interviews; document studies), as well as analysing (quantitative and qualitative) data and writing research papers.

The candidate will be expected to develop research questions and analytical frameworks relating to the above topics, and will be given ample possibilities for independent work, networking/scientific conferences and publishing to prepare for a researcher career.

We invite applicants to submit a letter of motivation describing their research interests, academic qualifications and previous research, and how they foresee their contributions to the research in R-QUEST and their future researcher career.

Qualifications and personal skills

- Candidates must hold a doctoral degree in the social sciences.
- Educational background and research experiences in fields relevant to the R-QUEST research topics. The ideal candidate has written a PhD thesis addressing topics relevant to R-QUEST, e.g. research and higher education policy, the sociology of science and related fields.
- A strong interest in contributing to the development of theoretical and empirical studies on research policy and quality.
- High competences on quantitative and qualitative social sciences methods, and ability to produce state of the art research.
- High organizational, collaborative and communication skills, and proficient command of English (necessary) and a Scandinavian language (preferred).
- All candidates should be motivated for a researcher career at NIFU. For non-Scandinavian candidates this implies motivation to learn Norwegian

We offer

- The appointment is for a period of two years at NIFU, with possibilities for a permanent position at NIFU after the postdoc period.
- Postdoc fellow salary according to NIFU's collective agreement.
- An attractive pension scheme through the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund.
- NIFU workplace - a stimulating and multidisciplinary working environment, with high competence, strong policy orientation and unique access to relevant databases. Attractive premises in Oslo.

- R-QUEST affiliation - a research centre with partners with high research competence in the field of science and policy studies, research quality and bibliometrics, as well as interaction with relevant user partners.

How to apply

The application must include:

- Cover letter
- A motivational letter specifying research interests and qualifications relating to R-QUEST, as outlined above. Max 3 pages.
- CV
- Copy of PhD thesis/link to online version.
- List of other publications and academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee.
- Copies of transcripts: All applicants must submit their Master's degree and PhD Diploma.

Please note: All documentation must be in English or in a Scandinavian language, and submitted through the electronic application portal ("Apply for this job").

Timeline and contacts

Timeline

Application deadline: 15/08/2019

Completing evaluation of applications: 20/09/2019

Upstart postdoc position: 01/01/2020

Contacts

For questions regarding the application process and conditions: Hanne Kreutz, hanne.kreutz@nifu.no

For questions regarding R-QUEST: Liv Langfeldt, liv.langfeldt@nifu.no

Homepage: www.r-quest.no / www.nifu.no

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