Postdoctoral Fellowship - "Genetic and Geographical Factors for Mental Health and Academic Achievement in Childhood"

Job description

A Postdoctoral Fellowship is available at the PROMENTA Research Center, Department of Psychology, University of Oslo. PROMENTA is a newly established interdisciplinary research center at the Department of Psychology aiming to provide answers to three central questions in mental health, well-being, and drug use research: What processes lead to poor and good mental health, and how? How do social and geographic inequalities in mental health arise? How can we develop, tailor, and evaluate effective interventions in communities to promote good mental health? To address these questions, we examine sources of mental health on a variety of levels, such as genetic risk, neurocognitive development, the psychosocial environment, and the socio-cultural and political context. The center is financed by the Research Council of Norway and contributions from the Department of Psychology, the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, and other participating partners. For more information about PROMENTA, please visit www.promenta.no.

More about the position

The postdoctoral fellow will be a part of the PROMENTA genetics work group examining genetic risk factors for early life internalizing problems and academic achievement. This includes examining modes of transmission from parent to offspring and heterogeneity in effects across geographical areas such as neighbourhoods and municipalities. The fellow will do both quantitative genetic analyses such as extended twin and sibling designs, triadic genomic relatedness designs, and triadic polygenic risk score analyses.

The fellowship is for a period of three years. A 4th year can be considered with the addition of 25% teaching requirement, depending on the competence of the applicant and the needs of the department.

The main purpose of the fellowship is to qualify researchers for work in higher academic positions within their disciplines.

Qualification requirements

- A PhD degree in relevant fields such as psychology and psychiatry.
- Doctoral dissertation must be submitted for evaluation by the closing date. Appointment is dependent on the public defence of the doctoral thesis being approved.
- Published genetically informative studies on internalizing problems and educational achievement.
- Skills in both quantitative genetic data analyses, such as twin and adoption studies; and in molecular genetic data analyses such as polygenic risk scores, SNP heritability, and relatedness disequilibrium regression.
- Computing skills in R, Structural Equation Modelling (e.g. OpenMx, Genomic SEM), Genome-Wide Complex Trait Analysis, LD Score Regression, and Polygenic Risk Score Software (e.g. PRSice).
- Excellent English skills, orally and in writing are required.
- Participation in genetic consortia is an advantage.
- Enthusiasm for the topic and for participating in building up a new research center.
- Plans for excellent research within the project, as evidenced by the required three-page letter of application, explaining the motivation for applying and how own qualifications are suitable for the announced position.
- Personal suitability, motivation and willingness to collaborate with academics from diverse backgrounds.

We offer

- Salary NOK 523 200 - 583 900 per annum depending on qualifications in position as Postdoctoral Research Fellow (position code 1352).
- A professionally stimulating working environment in a newly established research center at the Department of Psychology.
- Opportunities for extensive collaboration with our international collaborators.
- Favourable pension agreement
- Attractive welfare arrangements

How to apply

The application must include:

- Letter of application, max. 3 pages, explaining the motivation for applying and how own qualifications are suitable for the announced postdoc position.
- Curriculum vitae summarizing education, positions and academic work.
- Copies of educational certificates.
• Three to eight articles or book chapters as first or joint first author that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee (must be accepted for publication or published on bioRxiv).
• Names and contact details of at least two references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail, and telephone number).

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system. International applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University's grading system. Please note that all documents should be in English (or a Scandinavian language).

In assessing the applications, special emphasis will be placed on the documented, academic qualifications, the project description (whenever this is required in the call for applicants), and the quality of the project as well as the candidates motivation and personal suitability.

Interviews with the best qualified candidates will be arranged.

It is expected that the successful candidate will be able to complete the project in the course of the period of employment.

Formal regulations

Please see the guidelines and regulations for appointments to Postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Oslo.

No one can be appointed for more than one Postdoctoral Fellow period at the University of Oslo.

According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

The University of Oslo has an agreement for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results etc.

The University of Oslo aims to achieve a balanced gender composition in the workforce and to recruit people with ethnic minority backgrounds.

Contact information

Project manager Eivind Ystrøm, e-mail: eivind.ystrom@psykologi.uio.no

Head of office Joakim Dyrnes, e-mail: joakim.dyrnes@psykologi.uio.no

About the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo is Norway’s oldest and highest ranked educational and research institution, with 28 000 students and 7000 employees. With its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally recognised research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

The Department of Psychology is one of seven units of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and has 75 permanent and 70 temporary members of scientific staff. Degrees are offered at bachelor and master level, plus a clinical training programme, and the PhD programme has 140 students.

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