PhD research fellowship

Job description

A Doctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) is available at The Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo.

In this call, we invite innovative proposals that correspond closely with the research project “Chinese Multilateralism and its Impact on Environmental and Democratic Governance in Africa and Latin America”:

The scaling up of investments under its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is making China a more active collaborator on the world stage, including in countries where democracy and natural resource governance are weak. While refusing to impose normative conditions on bilateral collaboration, China is increasing its efforts to influence the norms and rules of multilateral cooperation. The combined effect of these changes may challenge the pursuit of core values in Norwegian foreign policy, without reciprocal understanding between Norway and China on motivation, architecture, procedure and plans.

The research project focuses on the scaling up of Chinese economic engagement on democratic and natural resources governance in Africa and Latin America. It applies an interactive methodology that includes permanent dialogue with user groups to compare Chinese influence in four multilateral organizations (FOCAC, UNDESA, CCF and IDB) and four country cases (Chile, Venezuela, Kenya and Zimbabwe). It will investigate how actions by different Chinese actors (governmental and business), and through bilateral as well as multilateral channels, are coordinated and influence norms and rules of conduct on democratic and natural resource governance. This will be studied through the impact on multilateral institutions and domestic elites. The goal is to explain the combined effects of bi-and multilateral engagement, and develop a nuanced understanding of the resulting multilateralism.

For this research fellowship we invite proposals that focus particularly on the role of Chinese business engagement in Africa and Latin America. The candidate decides whether to include both regions or only one in the PhD project, based on its overall design.

Applicants should enclose a project description (max. 5 pages) which shows clearly how the dissertation will contribute to achieving the overall goals of the project. The project description should also include a budget and progress plan.

More about the position

The research fellow must take part in the University’s approved PhD program and is expected to complete the project within the set fellowship period. The main purpose of the fellowship is research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD degree.

Qualification requirements

- A 2-year Master’s degree in humanities or social sciences (including development studies)
- Academic and personal ability to complete the project within the time frame (3 years)
- Collaboration and communication skills (including written and spoken English)
- Interest in interdisciplinary academic work
- Experience with collaborating with Chinese institutions
- Prior experience in research on the role of business in development and governance

Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of Chinese Mandarin and Norwegian is an advantage as is Spanish and/or local African languages depending on chosen case study.

The selected candidate will have their place of work at SUM, but will - as a condition of being granted the fellowship - have to be admitted to a doctoral programme at one of the faculties of the University of Oslo and follow the researcher education course at that faculty. The academic work will result in a doctoral thesis that will be defended at the chosen faculty with a view to obtain a PhD degree.

The candidates will be selected according to the following criteria:

- The quality, relevance and originality of the project proposal
- Academic merit (degrees and grades obtained)
- Relevant previous publications and work experience
- Experience deemed specifically beneficial for the topic in focus

Short-listed applicants may be invited for an interview at the University of Oslo

We offer

- a challenging and friendly working environment
- salary NOK 432 700 - 523 200 per year depending on qualifications
- favourable pension arrangement
attractive welfare arrangements
workout during working hours, 1.5 h pr. week

How to apply

The application must include

- cover letter statement of motivation and research interests
- eventual: a project description, including progress plan (max. X pages)
- CV (summarizing education, positions and academic work)
- copies of educational certificates (academic transcripts only)
- eventual documentation of English proficiency
- a complete list of publications and academic works
- list of reference persons: 2-3 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and phone number)

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, please follow the link “apply for this job”. Foreign 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).

When evaluating the application, emphasis will be given to the eventual “project description” and the applicant’s academic and personal prerequisites to carry out the project. Applicants may be called in for an interview.

Formal regulations

Please see the guidelines and regulations for appointments to Research Fellowships at the University of Oslo.

No one can be appointed for more than one PhD Research Fellowship 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 appointment may be shortened/given a more limited scope within the framework of the applicable guidelines on account of any previous employment in academic positions.

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

Contact information

Head of office Gitte Egenberg; gitte.egenberg@sum.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 Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) at the University of Oslo is inviting applications for a 3-year PhD research fellowship. SUM is an international research institution at the University of Oslo with a well-established track record of undertaking critical, independent and high quality interdisciplinary and policy-related research on the challenges and dilemmas posed by the need for sustainable development.

SUM’s current research covers the following research areas: Poverty and Development in the 21st Century; Energy and Consumption; Culture, Ethics and Sustainability; Global Governance for Sustainable Development; and Global Health.

SUM is primarily a research institution, but offers in addition PhD courses and an International Master in Development, Environment and Cultural Change. The Centre has the status of Research School specialising in educating scholars interested in interdisciplinary perspectives on development and the environment.

Jobbnorge-ID: 185955, Søknadsfrist: 15. mai 2020