Postdoctoral Fellow in biostatistics and epidemiology

Job description

Applicants are invited for a 3-year position as Postdoctoral Fellow in biostatistics and epidemiology to be based at the Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology (OCBE), Department of Biostatistics, University of Oslo, with starting date to be agreed upon.

We are looking for a highly motivated candidate with a strong background in biostatistics and epidemiology, interested in statistical applications in epidemiologic research. Melanoma is the most lethal form of skin cancer and one of the most rapidly increasing cancers. Tumor thickness is the most important prognostic factor in melanoma, and we are building a large dataset on tumor thickness at melanoma diagnosis. The candidate will study trends in tumor thickness over time and in subgroups, and potential new cut-points for predicting long-term survival. She/he will contribute important knowledge on the prognosis of melanoma. This will help to do better and personalized risk stratification to guide patient prognosis and clinical decision-making.

OCBE has six professors, five associate professors, fifteen researchers, and many postdoctoral fellows and PhD students, making up a group of 65 scientists. OCBE is internationally recognized, with interests spanning a broad range of areas (including time-to-event models, data integration, causal inference, statistical genomics, Bayesian inference, stochastic simulation algorithms, probability graphical models, machine learning, evolution and population genetics, informative missingness and measurement error models, epidemiological studies of lifestyle and chronic diseases, stochastic models for infectious diseases, high dimensional data and models) and numerous collaborations with leading bio-medical research groups internationally and in Norway.

The project, “Prognostic factors in cutaneous melanoma - towards a more personalized risk stratification”, is funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The principal investigator is Professor Marit B. Veierød. The Cancer Registry of Norway is a central collaborator in the project. We are a cross-disciplinary team of national and international researchers with expertise in statistics, epidemiology, dermatology, oncology and pathology.

More about the position

The appointment is a fulltime position for a period of 3 years (10% of which is devoted to required duties, usually in the form of advising activities). OCBE provides advising services for bio-medical projects at the Medical Faculty and the regional research hospitals, often leading to significant experiences and further co-authorships.

The main purpose of the fellowship is to qualify researchers for work in higher academic positions within their disciplines. The Faculty of Medicine offers a Postdoctoral Programme with structured and tailored support for career development.

No one can be appointed twice as a Postdoc financed with funds from The Research Council of Norway (NFR).

Qualification requirements

- Applicants must hold a PhD in biostatistics or within a relevant field (statistics, epidemiology, medicine or natural sciences), with a documented strong knowledge in statistics. Doctoral dissertation must be submitted for evaluation by the closing date. Appointment is dependent on the public defence of the doctoral thesis being approved.
- Documented expertise in statistical methods for survival data
- Documented programming skills, preferably with experience in software such as Stata or R
- Documented academic track record, evidenced by successful publishing in scientific journals
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English
- Research experience from large epidemiological studies will be an advantage

Personal skills

- The candidate must express a genuine interest in applying statistical methods in an epidemiological project
- The candidate is used to work in a team and has excellent communication skills
- The candidate shows the ability to work independently, efficiently and organized

We offer

- Salary 523 200 - 594 400 per annum depending on qualifications in position as Postdoctoral Research Fellow (position code 1352)
- Dedicated supervision on a highly relevant research project
- Access to unique data
- A friendly, professional and stimulating international working environment
- Access to a network of top level national and international collaborators
- Attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement, in addition to Oslo’s family-friendly environment with its rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities

How to apply
The application must include

- Personal cover letter, stating the motivation for this position and summarizing scientific work and research interests
- CV (summarizing education, positions, academic experiences, pedagogical experience, administrative experience and other qualifying activity)
- Copies of educational certificates (academic transcripts only)
- A complete list of publications
- 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. 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).

In assessing the applications, special emphasis will be placed on the documented, academic qualifications, as well as the candidate’s motivation and personal suitability. Interviews with the best qualified candidates will be arranged in person or by Skype.

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

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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 Institute of Basic Medical Sciences overall objective is to promote basic medical knowledge in order to understand normal processes, provide insight into mechanisms that cause illness, and promote good health. The Institute is responsible for teaching in basic medical sciences for the programmes of professional study in medicine and the Master's programme in clinical nutrition. The Institute has more than 300 employees and is located in Domus Medica.

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