PhD Fellowship - Nordic Transnational Activism and Global Encounters

Job description

We invite applications for a 3-year PhD research fellowship at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo.

The PhD candidate will participate in the Nordic Civil Societies project, which aims to explore how global, transnational and regional encounters have shaped ideas about “Norden” and about the “Nordic model of society” from 1800 until today. Applicants should formulate an independent PhD project that aligns with the purposes and perspectives of the project’s third pillar, “Beyond the Nordic: Civil Societies, Transnational Political Activism and Global Encounters.” This pillar focuses especially on the engagement of Nordic civil societies at the global level, including efforts in foreign aid, humanitarian assistance, global health, multilateral institutions, and more. Central questions of this pillar include what role civil society plays in Nordic engagement abroad, whether there is a peculiarly Nordic type of international engagement, and what difference the “Nordic model” makes to Nordic transnational activism. For details, see the project’s [web pages](#).

The PhD Fellow will join the [research group](#) The Politics of Nordic Generosity, and is expected to participate actively in its meetings and seminars. This group brings together scholars from rhetoric, history, social anthropology, and political science/international relations, to study how Nordic foreign policy is shaped, legitimized, and used for various purposes; the idea of so-called Nordic exceptionalism in aid and humanitarianism is a pivoting point of the group’s work. The PhD Fellow will also participate in SUM’s Research School, which specializes in interdisciplinary perspectives on development and the environment.

SUM does not grant doctoral degrees, so while the selected candidate will have their place of work at SUM, they must apply and be admitted to a doctoral program at one of the faculties of the University of Oslo. The academic work will result in a doctoral thesis that will be defended with a view to obtaining a PhD degree. The PhD Fellow is expected to complete the project within the set fellowship period. Read more about [doctoral degrees](#) at UiO here.

Qualification requirements

Applicants must hold a degree equivalent to a Norwegian 2-year master’s degree in a relevant humanities or social science discipline (e.g. rhetoric, history, social anthropology, politics/international relations). The master’s degree must have been awarded at the time of appointment.

- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English.
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in one or several Nordic languages.
- Ability to engage critically with the relevant theoretical and conceptual frameworks.
- Interest in and commitment to interdisciplinary academic work.

Appointment is dependent on admission to a doctoral program at the University of Oslo, preferably at Faculty of Humanities or Faculty of Social Sciences.

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programs at the University of Oslo, applicants must, as a minimum, have completed a five-year graduation course (master’s degree or equivalent), including a master’s thesis of at least 30 ECTS. In special cases, the Faculty may grant admission on the basis of a one-year master course following an assessment of the study program’s scope and quality.

Personal skills

The candidate should be highly motivated, able to work independently and as part of a team, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to work with a diverse range of individuals and organizations. SUM places high priority on collegiality and is seeking a candidate who can enrich the intellectual community of SUM through research activities.

We offer

- A professionally stimulating and friendly working environment.
- Salary NOK 479,600 - NOK 523,200 per annum depending on qualifications.
- Funds for research, travel, conference participation and dissemination, books and equipment.

Attractive welfare benefits and membership in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund, in addition to Oslo’s family friendly environment with its rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities.

How to apply

The application must include:

- Application letter describing the applicant’s qualifications, research interests and motivation for the position.
- Project description, including theory, methodological approach, relevant literature, and progress plan. You must follow SUM's template when writing your project description.
- CV (summarizing education, positions and any relevant academic work or publications).
- Certified copies of diplomas/academic transcripts. Applicants with education from a foreign university are advised to attach an explanation of their university’s grading system.
- One written work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee.
- Names and contact details of 2-3 academic referees (including relation to candidate, email and phone details).

In assessing the applications, the evaluation committee will emphasize the quality of the project description and the assumed academic and personal ability on the part of the candidates to complete the project within the given period. Short-listed applicants will be invited for an interview at the University of Oslo or we will arrange for a video-based 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 and 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 Acquisition of Rights Agreement (https://www.uio.no/english/foremployees/employment/work-results/index.html) for the purpose of securing rights to intellectual property created by its employees, including research results. 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 recognized research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

The Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) is a vibrant international research institution at the University of Oslo that promotes scholarly work on the challenges, opportunities and dilemmas posed by sustainable development.

SUM is primarily a research institution, but also offers PhD courses and an international master’s program in Development, Environment and Cultural Change. Research at SUM is organized in eight active research groups. See our website for details.

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