



Norges miljø- og
biovitenskapelige
universitet

Global challenges regarding energy and climate change, the environment, health, food safety, technology and renewable solutions, use and conservation of land and natural resources, and development of the bio-economy, requires greater effort. NMBU is well equipped to conduct further research in these fields. NMBU's expertise spans entire value chains and includes both basic and applied research.

On 1 January 2014, the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science and the University of Life Sciences merged and became -NMBU, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. NMBU has 1700 employees and 5100 students, and is currently located on two campuses - Ås, about 30 km south of Oslo, and Adamstuen in Oslo. In 2019, the new research- and education-building for veterinary science will be completed and all of NMBU will then be located at Campus Ås.

Further information about NMBU is available on www.nmbu.no

PhD scholarship in 3D visualization technology and environmental perceptions in landscape and urban design - Ref.no 16/01199

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning (ILP) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) is announcing a 3 year PhD fellowship position for a qualified candidate in the topic: "The role of 3D visualization technology in testing environmental perceptions in the context of landscape design and urban planning processes". 3D and visualization methods have yet to harness their full potential as research methods for testing the reactions and perceptions of users to particular environmental conditions and qualities that favour livability in various urban design contexts. Much environmental psychology research occurs either in the field, through audits and site observations, or in a laboratory, relying mainly on pictures or other static forms of landscape representations. 3D technology has yet to be used to bridge the gap between laboratory and real-life experience, and would allow us to collect data across a variety of geographical contexts, and without the need for expensive site visits for all subjects.

This PhD project would strengthen research on digital applications in landscape architecture and urban planning. The aim is to explore the potentials and challenges associated with 3D digital tools and visualizations when applied in the areas of urban design, urban systems planning, landscape design. The research will make use of a collaborative research environment at ILP by cooperating with other researchers and sections. In addition, the VR-Lab will be used as arena to facilitate the research work experimentation with new technologies in sharing knowledge, increasing interdisciplinary collaboration, and engaging users.

The Department

The Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning is one of three departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Department has about 800 students and 80 employees. The Department is responsible for five-year Master programs in Land Management, Urban and Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture. In addition, the department runs a two-year Master program in Real Estate Development and Public Health and a three-year Bachelor in Landscape Engineering. The Department has structured the PhD education in a Research School. The main activities are research, teaching and communication in the fields of urban and regional planning, land management, public health and landscape architecture. The department is interdisciplinary, and this is reflected in research and teaching. Research is primarily based on social science and the humanities using quantitative and qualitative research methods, but also technology related to digital applications and visualization in design and planning. The teaching is oriented toward the professions and is therefore based on a wide range of knowledge. The qualifications of employees represent a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds - such as planning, landscape architecture, architecture, visual arts, sociology, geography, land management, engineering, law, landscape ecology, plant science, physiology, and economy. ILP has a well-established advanced Virtual Reality lab facility for research, education, testing and utilizing new digital applications for planning and design www.nmbu.no/vrlab

Main tasks/ Research Project

The PhD fellow's research will focus on:

- work-flows and techniques for participation, communication and collaborations in facilitating the engagement of professionals, stockholders and community groups in Norway in planning and design processes through 3D visualization and digital forms of data gathering and representation
- application and valuation of advancing 3D visualization technology in supporting real-world decision-making processes with the aim to contribute to principles and standards ensuring ethical use of this technology.
- experimentation using 3D visualization technology in testing environmental perceptions in the context of urban design and planning processes. Bridging the gap between virtual reality and real-life experience
- how advancements in 3D visualization might allow researchers to collect data across a variety of geographical contexts without the need for expensive site visits for all subjects

Academic Qualifications

The successful candidate is expected to have a Masters of Landscape Architecture or urban planning, or an equivalent qualification in a related field. Preference will be given to candidates with work experience in digital applications in urban design and landscape architecture (e.g. 3D modelling, 3D visualizations, Virtual Reality) and an interest in environment perceptions and participation studies in urban planning and design.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- PhD research proposal
- Academic records
- Evidence of capacity to engage in creative, rigorous research (particularly originality of research question and potential and experience with knowledge dissemination via peer reviewed journals and/or other relevant publication avenues)
- Evidence of the applicant's experience in working with advanced 3D digital modelling and 3D visualizations tools
- Motivation and interest in one or more of the focal topics listed above

Desired personal qualities

- Creativity
- Analytical skills
- Good interpersonal and collaboration skills
- Demonstrated proficiency in both spoken and written English.
- Knowledge of Norwegian is not necessary but welcome.

For more detailed information on the admission criteria please see the [PhD Regulations](#) and the relevant [PhD programme description](#).

NMBU offers:

- An optimistic, fast growing academic institution
- An interdisciplinary and inclusive environment that provides exciting research, teaching and personal development opportunities
- Daily contact with inspiring students and colleagues
- Beautiful surroundings just outside Oslo
- SoDoC (Society of Doctoral Candidates at NMBU) is an interest organization for PhD candidates at NMBU

Remuneration

The successful candidate is expected to prepare a study plan during the first months of the appointment for the progress of the work towards a PhD degree, with a view to completing a doctorate within the PhD scholarship period. The department has its own Research School, and it is desirable that the successful candidate can start September 1, 2016.

The salary for PhD scholarship is at the wage grade 50 (equivalent to annual salary 430 500 NOK). For especially well-qualified applicants, alternative salary placement could be considered.

Further information

For further information, please contact Associate Professor Ramzi Hassan, via email: ramzi.hassan@nmbu.no

Application

To apply online for this vacancy, please click on the '**Apply for this job**' button above. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.

Application deadline: April 17, 2016

Applications should include (electronically) a short proposal of your PhD research project (1500 - 2500 words), a cover letter, curriculum vitae (inclusive of all publications), copies of degree certificates and transcripts of academic records (all certified), samples of creative or participatory landscape design work, and the name and contacts of two referees. In order to judge the applicant's contribution for publications with multiple authors, a short description of the applicant's contribution to each publication should be included as part of the application.

Non electronic documents should be sent by ordinary mail to: Norwegian University of Life Sciences, The Department of Landscape Architecture and Spatial Planning, PO Box 5003, N-1432 Ås, Quote reference "16/01199".

Verified testimonies, certificates

Applicants invited for an interview will be requested to present confirmed copies of diplomas and certificates. The position follows the Norwegian government pay scale. A compulsory contribution of 2 % is made to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund. A good working environment is characterized by diversity. We encourage qualified candidates to apply, irrespective of gender, physical ability or cultural background. The workplace will, if necessary be facilitated for persons with disabilities.

According to the Freedom of Information Act § 25 the list of applicants for this position may be made public irrespective of whether the applicant has requested that his/her name be withheld.

Jobbnorge-ID: 123304, Søknadsfrist: Avsluttet