



*The University of Agder has more than 1200 employees and 12000 students. This makes us one of the largest workplaces in Southern Norway. Our staff research, teach and disseminate knowledge from a variety of academic fields. Co-creation of knowledge is our common vision. We offer a broad range of study programmes in many fields. We are situated at two modern campuses in Kristiansand and Grimstad respectively.*

*We are an open and inclusive university marked by a culture of cooperation. The aim of the university is to further develop education and research at a high international level.*

## PhD Research Fellow in Mathematics Education

The University of Agder invites application for a PhD fellowship in Mathematics Education for a period of 3 years, for suitable candidates there is the possibility of extending the period to 4 years including 25 % teaching duties. Starting date 01.08.17. The location of the position is at the Faculty of Engineering and Science, either at Campus Kristiansand or at Campus Grimstad (negotiable).

The position is within the Centre of Excellence for Education: Centre for Research Innovation and Coordination of Mathematics Teaching, and Department of Mathematical Sciences. The Centre's aim is to support and enrich teaching and learning mathematics in higher education, especially within 'user programmes' such as economics, engineering, natural sciences, etc. and teacher education. Further information (in English) about the Centre can be found [here](#). The appointed fellow will join a research group focusing on university level mathematics education including 6 PhD Research Fellows and one Post-Doctoral Research Fellow.

[The Department of Mathematical Sciences](#) offers bachelor's and master's programmes in mathematics, and a master's programme and PhD in mathematics education. The department also contributes to the University's teacher education programme. The department has a large and active research group in mathematics education, with about 20 fellows on its PhD programme. This group pursues a variety of research interests focusing especially on mathematics teaching, developmental research, classroom research and multi-modal communication in mathematics classrooms from kindergarten to university level.

The PhD Fellowship is intended to research teaching and learning mathematics within bachelor level economics and business programmes. Internationally there are concerns about students' performance in mathematics as a 'service' subject, such as within economics and business study programmes. Students' poor performance in mathematics is often blamed for unacceptably poor progression and retention. The research undertaken by the appointed fellow should contribute to understanding the roots of poor performance and the improvement of teaching and learning mathematics.

Applicants for this position are required to submit, as part of their application, a proposal for research that will fit with the intention outlined above.

The University of Agder has excellent library support and a collection of research literature in mathematics education (in English and Scandinavian languages) and on-line access to all leading journals in the field. The mathematics education community at the University of Agder is one of the largest groups of mathematics education researchers in the Nordic region. Mathematics education has been a priority research area for the university for over two decades and a substantial international group of researchers has been developed.

### Requirements

The applicant must submit an approved project description within three months of appointment. More information about the programmes and a complete list of admission requirements to the PhD programme for Mathematics Education can be found [here](#).

The candidate must hold a cand. scient. or master's degree in Mathematics or Mathematics Education or another field with corresponding mathematics content relevant for the position. A strong knowledge of mathematics is required, especially if a 4-year position with some teaching responsibilities is to be offered. Normally, a teaching qualification is also required. Candidates who have a strong mathematical background without a teaching qualification will be considered for a 4-year position, this will include some courses and activities to develop teaching competencies appropriate to higher education.

Applicants should be fluent in English; knowledge of Norwegian or another Scandinavian is essential for candidates seeking a 4-year position, and an advantage otherwise. At the University of Agder, PhD dissertations may be written in Norwegian, another Scandinavian Language or English.

Further provisions relating to the position as PhD Research Fellow can be found in the ["Regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment for the position of Post-doctoral research fellow, research fellow, research assistant and resident"](#).

Applicants from some countries must document their English proficiency through one of the following tests with the stated results or better:

- TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language with a minimum score of 550 on the Paper-based Test (PBT), or 80 on the Internet based Test (iBT)
- IELTS - International English Language Testing System, with a result of at least 6.0.

Possible categories of applicants from particular countries may be exempted, see [here](#).

Please note that the English test requirement applies to applicants from most countries according to the list cited above. No other tests will be approved, and certifications/statements cannot replace a test.

Personal suitability and good teamwork skills will be emphasized in the evaluation as well as relevant practical experience. Research Fellows are expected to contribute to the active research community at the University. The positions place demands on the applicants' capacity for

are expected to contribute to the active research community at the University. The position place demands on the applicants' capacity for independent goal-oriented work, ability to concentrate and attention to detail. Applicants will be assessed on the basis of academic background and results, attainment, and any previous research activity, in addition to a research proposal submitted with the application (see below).

Research visits to an external institution or with a national or international partner for part of the period of employment may be anticipated, as indicated in the above text.

Short-listed applicants will be invited for interviews. With the applicant's permission, UiA will also conduct a reference check before appointment.

The Norwegian public service is committed to reflect the diversity of society, and the personnel policy of the University of Agder aims to achieve a balanced workforce. All qualified persons are therefore encouraged to apply for the position, irrespective of cultural background, gender, age or disability.

Appointment is made by the University of Agder's Appointments Committee for Teaching and Research Positions. The successful applicant will have rights and obligations in accordance with the current regulations for the public service.

### **Remuneration**

The position is remunerated according to the State salary scale, salary plan 17.515, code 1017 Research Fellow, salary NOK 435 500 gross per year. A 2 % compulsory pension contribution to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund is deducted from the pay according to current statutory provisions.

Submit your application and CV online. Please click on the link "**Apply for this job**". The following documentation should be submitted as attachments to the online application:

- A letter of application which includes a rationale for applying for the position together with an outline of the applicant's research interests and background for the proposed project
- Certificates and/or grades for all post-secondary education, up to and including the bachelor's level; Master's degree/higher degree certificate, with a summary of the courses/subjects included in the degree;
- Applicants with a foreign higher education must attach an official description of the grading system used at the issuing institution; Applicants who are required to document their English proficiency must submit their TOEFL or IELTS test results (these may be forwarded after the closing date); An additional assessment of English may be undertaken at the time of interview;
- Summary and links to the applicant's scientific publications if produced;
- A short research proposal (preliminary) that sets out background, rationale, recent work and research design for the intended study. This should not extend beyond about 5 pages, but it will form an important part of the evaluation of candidates.

Original documents must be presented for verification to the University of Agder. Successful candidates will be asked, normally during the interview, to ensure that the issuing university submits documents in a sealed envelope directly to UiA or provide access to their documents online, which allows UiA to verify the authenticity of these electronic documents via a secure website hosted at the issuing university (contact person at UiA will be provided later for certain candidates).

The applicant is fully responsible for submitting complete documentation. Without complete documentation we cannot, unfortunately, include you in the assessment process.

All documentation of education must be in the original language and in English, Norwegian, Swedish, or Danish (if the original language is not one of these), and the translation should preferably be from the issuing university. Additional documentation must be in English, Norwegian, Swedish or Danish.

### **Closing date: 19.05.17**

For further information please contact Professor Simon Goodchild, tel. (+47) 38 14 17 60, e-mail: [simon.goodchild@uia.no](mailto:simon.goodchild@uia.no) or Head of Department Elna Svege, tel. (+47) 38 14 17 78, e-mail: [elna.svege@uia.no](mailto:elna.svege@uia.no).

In accordance with §25(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, applicants may request that they are not identified in the open list of applicants. The University, however, reserves the right to publish the name of applicants. Applicants will be advised of the University's intention to exercise this right.

Jobbnorge-ID: 137712, Søknadsfrist: Avsluttet