

**Jobbnorge-ID:** 142616

**Søknadsfrist:** Avsluttet

**Nettside:**

**Omfang:**

**Varighet:**

## PhD Research Fellow in Environmental Science

The Faculty of Technology, Natural Sciences and Maritime Sciences has a vacancy for a position as PhD Research Fellow in Environmental Science from 01.01.2018.

The position is attached to the Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health and reports to the Head of Department. The place of employment is Bø in Telemark.

### Qualifications

Applicants to the PhD position must have a Master's degree or equivalent higher education qualifications in environmental science, plant ecology, physical geography or related discipline. Knowledge of climatology is considered as an advantage. To qualify, the candidate must have a B or better on her/his MSc thesis. The applicant must have gained the degree within the application deadline.

It is a requirement that the successful applicant is granted admission to the university's doctoral programme in Ecology.

The staff at the faculty work within subject teams to a large extent, and the candidate must be motivated to share his or her knowledge and cooperate. Personal suitability for the position will be emphasized.

The candidate should master both spoken and written English, and should be familiar and experienced with the use of GIS and modelling techniques.

### Information about the position

Alpine tree lines represent an important ecological boundary, separating the boreal forest belt from the treeless alpine tundra. The altitude of alpine tree lines depends on many different local factors, such as the involved tree species, exposition of the terrain, slope angle, substrate, the size of the mountain range and climatic conditions. Despite all these different factors, it has been proposed that the worldwide undisturbed alpine tree lines follow a common climatic envelope. This suggests that the elevation of high elevation tree lines may be predicted using meteorological data alone. Based on this principle, a mathematical model has been constructed that successfully simulated the tree line positions at a continental to global scale. In Fennoscandia, tree line elevations vary greatly from 900 m in the south of Norway to sea level in the very north. Under influence of global warming, it is anticipated that Fennoscandian tree lines will shift to higher elevations. This could potentially lead to a decrease in the future areal extent of vulnerable alpine ecosystems in Fennoscandia, and it is thus important to make a detailed quantitative analysis of the impact of future warming scenarios on local tree line altitudes.

The PhD fellow will be part of a research project to model the modern tree lines in Fennoscandia and to evaluate the effect of different warming scenarios and other factors on local tree line altitudes. The modelling will be done in ArcGIS and both scenarios of past warm climates (the mid-Holocene) and the future will be analysed. The candidate will work in collaboration with several researchers, master and bachelor students. The candidate is expected to assist with supervision of master and bachelor students. Opportunities and funding for research visits to other institutions within and outside Norway are available.

The appointment is for a period of three years. The position does not include teaching duties.

For further information concerning the position please contact Prof. Hans Renssen, Project Coordinator, Phone+47 35952952, Email: [hans.rensen@usn.no](mailto:hans.rensen@usn.no) or Dr. Live Semb Vestgarden, Head of Department, Phone: +4735952797, Email: [Live.S.Vestgarden@usn.no](mailto:Live.S.Vestgarden@usn.no) at the Faculty of Technology, Natural Sciences and Maritime Sciences, Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health.

### We offer

- A professionally stimulating working environment.
- Good opportunities to develop your career and your academic skills
- A good social environment
- Attractive welfare benefits in the [State Pension Plan](#)
- Opportunity for physical activities within working hours

### Salary

PhD Research Fellow (code 1017): NOK 436 900 a year. Further promotion will be based on service in the position. In special cases, employment in code 1378 may be considered. Salary NOK 436 900 - 600 200 a year. A statutory contribution will be made from the employee's salary to the state pension plan.

### Additional information

The Academic Appointments Board is responsible for appointments to academic positions at University College of Southeast Norway. An expert assessment of applicants will be carried out. Short-listed candidates will be called in for interviews.

The successful applicant must comply with the laws, regulations and agreements that apply to the position.

It is an aim of personnel policy that the academic staff of University College of Southeast Norway should reflect the composition of the general population. It is therefore a personnel policy objective to achieve a balanced age and gender composition on the faculty and to recruit people from ethnic minority backgrounds. People from ethnic minority backgrounds are encouraged to apply for the position.

According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information act § 25 2 paragraph, information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, even though the applicant has requested non-disclosure. The applicant will be informed if his/her request has been declined.

#### **How to apply**

University College of Southeast Norway uses online applications. We therefore ask applicants to register their application and CV online by clicking on the "Send application" link to the right. The application must include the following documents:

1. Certified diplomas and certificates from university college/university
2. A copy of the Master's thesis
3. Any scientific publications and a list of these
4. The contact details of three references

Please note that all documents must be translated into English or a Scandinavian language by an authorized translator.

#### **Tilleggsinformasjon**

##### **Arbeidssted:**