

## Application for travel funding for research stay in 2025

### 1. Introductory marks:

I am planning to do a research stay at Exeter University in Penryn, Cornwall, United Kingdom in the spring of 2025, as part of the PhD study programme. The research stay is planned for approximately six months from February to July 2025.

### 2. Budget with a plan for financing the research stay:

For this research stay I will bring my partner and two kids (I will go out in my second maternity leave in March 2024) with me. I therefore apply for the monthly amount of NOK 39.000 (NOK 234.000 for six months). As can be shown in the budget underneath, I apply for the maximum amount of funding.

I currently also have NOK 82.911 left of my annuum (see the main correspondence with Lise Myrvang from the faculty of law administration attached). The plan is to use the annuum to cover most of the costs that will exceed the funding limit.

Budget for Research Stay in Cornwall, UK		
	English and GBP currency	Norsk og NOK valuta
<b>Accommodation</b>	Average rent price for: - Two-bedroom house: £ 1.039 per month / £ 6.234 for 6 months <sup>1</sup> - Three-bedroom house: £ 1.330 per month / <b>£ 7.980</b> for six months	Gjennomsnittlig leiepris for: - Bolig m/to soverom: NOK 13.687 per mnd / NOK 82.122 for 6 mnd - Bolig m/tre soverom: NOK 17 520 NOK / <b>NOK 105.125</b> for 6 mnd
<b>Council tax<sup>2</sup></b>	Two persons x 6 months: <b>£ 1700<sup>3</sup></b>	To personer x 6 måneder: <b>NOK 22.651</b>
<b>Fee for visiting researchers in Exeter</b>	The current fee for visits of between 3 and (including) 6 calendar months is <b>£ 500<sup>4</sup></b>	Den nåværende avgiften for besøk på mellom 3 og (inkludert) 6 kalender måneder er <b>NOK 6.571</b>
<b>Utilities (electricity, gas etc.)</b>	Predicted average bill for typical gas and electricity consumption in 2024 for 6 months: <b>£ 600</b>	Forventet gjennomsnittlig regning for typisk gass- og strømforbruk i 2024 i 6 måneder: <b>NOK 7.999</b>
<b>Diet</b>	182 days (6 months) á £ 7,13 x 4 people (diet: £ 7,13 per per day/person) = <b>£ 5.190</b>	182 dager (6 måneder) á NOK 95 x 4 personer (diett: NOK 95 per døgn/person) = <b>NOK 69.160</b>

<sup>1</sup> The prices for renting a house in Cornwall have increased significantly the last five years, read for example: <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/renting-house-cornwall-costs-double-8860208>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/council-tax/who-has-to-pay>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mycounciltax.org.uk/results?postcode=tr60bj>

<sup>4</sup> <https://as.exeter.ac.uk/academic-policy-standards/tqa-manual/pgr/visitingpgrstudents/> Updated in August 2023.

<b>Communication</b>	Mobile: £ 35 x 2 persons x 6 months = £420 <sup>5</sup> Internet: £ 30 x 6 months = <b>£ 180<sup>6</sup></b>	Mobile: NOK 466 x2 = <b>NOK 932</b> Internett: <b>NOK 400</b>
<b>Local transport</b>	Local bus card £ 90 x 2 persons x 6 months = <b>£ 1080<sup>7</sup></b>	Lokalt busskort £ 90 x 2 personer x 6 måneder = <b>NOK 14.397</b>
<b>Day care / Kindergarten</b>	Day care for six months with two kids: <b>£ 8.385<sup>8</sup></b>	Barnehage i seks måneder med to barn: <b>NOK 111.000</b>
<b>Diverse expenses</b>	Gym membership x two persons: £ 370x 2 = <b>£ 740<sup>9</sup></b>	Medlemskap på treningsstudio x to personer: NOK 4.933 x 2 = <b>NOK 9.866</b>
<b>Insurance expenses</b>	Extended travel insurance covering stays of up to 180 days for 4 persons/entire family: <b>£ 860</b>	Utvidet reiseforsikring som dekker opphold inntil 180 dager for 4 personer/hele familien: <b>NOK 11.456</b>
<b>Sum living expenses</b>	<b>£ 27.455</b>	<b>NOK 366.062</b>
<b>Budget travel expenses to Cornwall, UK</b>		
<b>Flights</b>	Two adults and one child over 2 (baby 0-2 years travels for free) <b>£ 1.876</b>	To voksne og ett barn over 2 år (spedbarn 0-2 år reiser gratis): <b>NOK 25.000</b>
<b>Tromsø – Cornwall (roundtrip)</b>	- Includes costs for a hotel stay on one of the trips	- Inkluderer kostnader for hotellovernatting på en av turene
<b>Transport to/from airport</b>	- Maxi taxi (due to amount of luggage and need for two children car seats) to Tromsø Airport: <b>£ 45</b> - Taxi from Newquay Airport to Penryn/Falmouth: <b>£ 70</b>	- Maxi-taxi (på grunn av mengde bagasje og behov for to barneseter) til Tromsø lufthavn: <b>NOK 600</b> - Taxi fra Newquay flyplass til Penryn/Falmouth: <b>NOK 932</b>
<b>Sum travel expenses</b>	<b>£ 1991</b>	<b>NOK 26.532</b>

### 3. Purpose of doing a research Stay in Cornwall, the United Kingdom

#### PhD title:

‘The Role of Law in a Sustainable Transition of the Norwegian Aquaculture Sector: Legal Pathways towards Regenerative Blue Food Systems in the Bioeconomy’

#### Project description:

This PhD project is part of a larger interdisciplinary project titled ‘Novel Marine Resources for Food Security and Food Safety’ (SECURE).<sup>1</sup> The SECURE project addresses interconnected contemporary challenges within the blue economy related to the utilization and potential of introducing novel marine species from lower parts of the marine food web as nutrition to a growing population.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/consumer-advice/money/a44848018/save-money-mobile-phone-bill/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.uswitch.com/broadband/studies/broadband-statistics/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.transportforcornwall.co.uk/#tickets>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.littlewings-childcare.co.uk/prices/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.thepointatpolzeath.co.uk/health-club/health-club-membership/>

The world's food systems are increasingly associated with negative environmental and socioeconomic impacts and contribute to nearly 30% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>10</sup> Due to several factors, including an emerging climate crisis, urbanization, resource scarcity, biodiversity loss and an ever-growing world population, a fundamental transition to food systems with a lower environmental impact and carbon footprint is needed. To feed the world sustainably, today's "net nature-negative" food system must become "nature positive" – ensuring a non-depleting and non-destructive use of natural resources based on a regenerative system.<sup>11</sup>

To this end, a transition to bioeconomy is promoted as a path towards the establishment of sustainable food systems through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increased energy and material use efficiency, responsible consumption, social inclusion, and innovation.<sup>12</sup> In view of some of the criticisms levelled at the bioeconomy – one of these being its inability to challenge dominant structures in society<sup>13</sup> – it is essential to ensure that such an economic model is founded on fundamentally sound and just premises, well-balanced considerations and choices.

Moreover, development of a bioeconomy in key food producing sectors such as aquaculture can thus, under the right conditions, support the creation of regenerative blue food systems and contribute to a sustainable transition of this sector. Regenerative aquaculture can be referred to as 'the intentional use of aquaculture to positively affect (ecosystem) services'.<sup>14</sup> Globally, aquaculture contributes significantly to food production and Norway is one of the world's largest aquaculture nations. Atlantic Salmon production currently plays a leading role in Norway's economy, with 1.25 million tons exported in 2022.<sup>15</sup> However, the aquaculture sector is known to cause many sustainability problems related to health, environment, and climate, and despite various attempts to solve these through a complex set of regulatory measures and instruments, systemic and fundamental problems have persisted.<sup>16</sup>

This PhD project investigates the current and potential role of law in enabling sustainable transition of blue food systems within the Norwegian aquaculture industry. This PhD project seeks to find legal pathways and tools to integrate regenerative blue food systems across value chains, regimes and sectors, as part of the solution to many of the existing sustainability

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<sup>10</sup> M Crippa and others, 'Food Systems Are Responsible for a Third of Global Anthropogenic GHG Emissions' (2021) 2 *Nature Food* 198.

<sup>11</sup> Regenerative Food Systems: Finding Ways to Feed the World Without it Costing the Earth, accessed from <https://www.buildingbridges.org/regenerative-food-systems/> at January 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

<sup>12</sup> The Global Bioeconomy Summit of 2020 defines bioeconomy as "the production, utilization, conservation, and regeneration of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide sustainable solutions (information, products, processes and services) within and across all economic sectors and enable a transformation to a sustainable economy." (retrived from [https://gbs2020.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GBS2020\\_IACGB-Communique.pdf](https://gbs2020.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GBS2020_IACGB-Communique.pdf) January 15th, 2024).

<sup>13</sup> Lillian Hansen, 'The Weak Sustainability of the Salmon Feed Transition in Norway – A Bioeconomic Case Study' (2019) 6 *Frontiers in Marine Science* 764.

<sup>14</sup> Global Principles of Restorative Aquaculture, retrieved from [https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC\\_PrinciplesofRestorativeAquaculture.pdf](https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC_PrinciplesofRestorativeAquaculture.pdf) January 18th, 2024.

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<sup>16</sup> Tonje C Osmundsen and others, 'Shared Waters—Shared Problems: The Role of Self-Governance in Managing Common Pool Resources' (2021) 25 *Aquaculture Economics & Management* 275.

Mathilde Morel, PhD Research Fellow, NCLOS/Faculty of Law

problems connected with the aquaculture sector as such, but also as a crucial step towards a developing and regulating a bioeconomy.

The project seeks to investigate the main research question of how law can facilitate or even accelerate a sustainable transition process through enabling bioeconomy in the Norwegian aquaculture sector.

To answer the main question, the following sub-research questions are being asked:

1. To what extent does existing law encourage or discourage sustainable innovations and solutions (necessary for developing a bioeconomy)?
  - (a) Relevant for developing sustainable aquafeed production
  - (b) Relevant for phasing in regenerative low-tropic aquaculture
2. What kind of legal approaches would be appropriate to ensure innovation and solutions towards sustainability (necessary for developing a bioeconomy)?

To answer the thesis main and sub-research questions, this study takes a systemic perspective to law and applies a variety of methods, including doctrinal legal research, sociology of law, regulatory governance theory, and critical legal analysis. Furthermore, this thesis studies cross-cutting legal frameworks relevant to environmental protection, marine and coastal zone planning, climate issues and sustainable transitions and is thus assessing both national, EU/EEA law, as well as international law.

### **The relevance of the research visit**

I am planning to do a research visit to Exeter Centre for Environmental Law (ExCel), which is a part of the Exeter University, located at Penryn Campus in Cornwall, UK.<sup>17</sup> This interdisciplinary research center, established in 2021, aims to

*provide an intellectual environment to create a Worldwide Environmental Law and Policy Research Network with international academic partners, such as Duke, QUEX, and CUHK. In parallel, it is aimed to engage with international, national, and local stakeholders. In addition to being an attraction centre for law researchers willing to conduct their research in Cornwall, it is also one of the goals of ExCEL to support members with achieving impact through policy workshops and training, as well as PR and marketing.*

The ExCel focuses particularly on:

- *promoting the study and development of environmental, climate, and marine law and policy;*
- *stimulate debate, collaboration, and networks in response to the most pressing needs of international, European, and local environmental matters; and*
- *support teaching and training in the fields of environmental, climate, and marine law.*

First, ExCel conducts research within in the academic and legal areas of environmental, climate and marine law, which are all crucial to my research project. Second, ExCel's

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<sup>17</sup> For more information about ExCel, read <https://law.exeter.ac.uk/research/groups/excel/>.

interdisciplinary work and collaboration with a range of other institutions and partners, connecting research towards a future-proof environmental governance, is highly relevant for my research project. Finally, a research stay at an institution like the ExCel (and the Exeter University in general) will contribute to broaden my research perspectives and expose me to new and different cultural and academic approaches. This international experience will enrich my understanding of environmental law from a global standpoint, which is increasingly important given the transboundary nature of the environmental issues raised in this PhD project.

Furthermore, Exeter's international perspective allows me to engage in comparative studies. By providing me with access and assistance to relevant resources, materials, and relevant staff expertise, I can compare legal frameworks and regulatory approaches in the UK and Norway. This will give me a broader understanding of how different legal systems address the relevant sustainability issues in aquaculture. Aquaculture is a significant part of the UK seafood sector and there are many global and national drivers for developing aquaculture in the UK further<sup>18</sup> – and there are thus probably many links, parallels and lessons that can be learned from doing such analysis.

A research visit to Exeter University also opens opportunities for conducting research visits at and collaborations with other relevant universities and research institutions nearby. For example, the University of Plymouth, located in Devon, UK, close to Exeter University (about 1.5 hours away in driving distance), is strongly engaged in marine research in aquaculture and fisheries. They have many relevant research activities and projects, such as the Marine Conservation Research Group<sup>19</sup> with projects on regenerative aquaculture and the Environmental Law Clinic<sup>20</sup> considering issues affecting the environment of Plymouth and the surrounding region.

#### **4. Supervisors recommendation**

See attachment.

#### **5. Invitation from the host institution**

This will be sent in at a later stage when I have received an actual invitation from the host institution.

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<sup>18</sup> Read for example, [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a81c183ed915d74e33ffe31/Future\\_of\\_the\\_sea\\_-\\_trends\\_in\\_aquaculture\\_FINAL\\_NEW.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a81c183ed915d74e33ffe31/Future_of_the_sea_-_trends_in_aquaculture_FINAL_NEW.pdf) (accessed January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024).

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/marine-conservation-research-group/fishing-and-aquaculture> (accessed January 17<sup>th</sup> 2024).

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/services/environmental-law-clinic> (accessed January 17<sup>th</sup> 2024).



January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To whom it may concern

**Object: Supervisors' approval for a research stay abroad/Mathilde Morel**

We are writing to express our support for Mathilde Morel's funding application for a research stay in the UK, at the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth.

The purpose of Mathilde's research stay is to enhance her work in the field of sustainability in the blue food system, specifically focusing on promoting legal responses to blue sustainability in the food system. The interdisciplinary nature of her work aligns with the expertise available at the aforementioned institutions. By collaborating with researchers at the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, Mathilde aims to gather valuable insights and data that will significantly contribute to the advancement of her Ph.D. research.

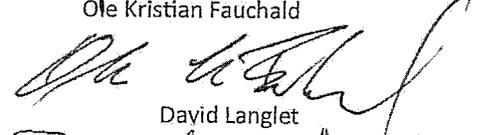
This research stay is not only integral to the progression of Mathilde's doctoral work but also presents a unique opportunity for her to acquire essential data and foster collaborations with experts in her field. The resources and facilities available at these institutions are particularly well-suited to support the specific requirements of her research project. The exposure to diverse perspectives and methodologies will undoubtedly contribute to the enrichment of her research.

We kindly request your approval and support for Mathilde's research stay, and we are confident that this endeavor will yield valuable outcomes for her academic journey and our institution.

Margherita Paola Poto



Ole Kristian Fauchald



David Langlet

