

Postdoctoral Fellow in ancient sedimentary DNA at the University Museum

Application deadline:

Ref.: 2019/386

The University Museum, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, has a 2.5 year fixed term contract vacant at the post-doctoral level. The applicant will join the international team of researchers in the ERA-NET BiodivERsA project "**Future Arctic Ecosystems (FATE): drivers of diversity and future scenarios from ethnoecology, contemporary ecology and ancient DNA**" (<https://www.biodiversa.org/1400>). The project will conduct a circumpolar investigation of long-term biodiversity change based on ancient DNA from lake sediment cores, with a specific focus on the role of herbivory and climate in shaping vegetation. We will use this data, in conjunction with data from contemporary ecology and indigenous and local knowledge, to develop scenarios of future biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Further information about the position is available by contacting Prof Inger Greve Alsos (inger.g.alsos@uit.no).

The postdoc will generate and analyse paleogenetic data on vegetation, mammals and fungi/lichens using lake sediment cores from Norway and Svalbard. The project will involve field work in both areas. He/she will also contribute to identify long-term, broad-scale drivers and develop scenarios of ecosystem change at pan-Arctic scale through literature review and data collection. The work will be carried out in close collaboration with the ancient DNA labs at the Alfred-Wegener-Institute (AWI) Research Unit Potsdam, the University of California Santa Cruz and McMaster University. This post doc will have a special responsibility for vascular plant aDNA protocol development. The project builds strongly on interdisciplinary exchange leading to joint analyses and publications with the other international members of the BiodivERsA project.

The position of Postdoctoral Fellow is a fixed-term position for a period of **2.5 years starting on May 1st 2019**. The main objective of the appointment as a post-doctoral research fellow is to qualify for work in senior academic position. No one may be appointed to more than one fixed term-period as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the same institution.

The position's affiliation

This position is attached to the Department of Natural Sciences, which is responsible for developing and maintaining scientific collections of objects (animals, plants, fossils and minerals) as well as public outreach, including the Tromsø Arctic Alpine Botanical Garden. The department has a permanent staff of 15, of which eight are in academic positions. At the moment, four PhD students, two post docs and two researchers are connected to the department. The position is within the research group in taxonomy and biodiversity, which focuses on diversity, phylogeography and taxonomy of northern organisms using molecular as well as traditional methods. The department has laboratories for modern and ancient DNA analyses, and it is currently involved in four large projects: [ECOGEN](#), [ERC - IceAGenT](#), ERC – TerrACE, and [Norwegian Barcode of Life](#)". The latter includes full genome sequencing of the flora of Norway and the Arctic. For more information about the Department of Natural Sciences, visit [this site](#). This project will also link with research by the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology at UiT.

The successful applicant is expected to spend most of the time in Tromsø, but there will also be research stay with our project collaborators (see above) and fieldwork.

Required qualifications

A Norwegian doctoral degree in the subject area or a corresponding foreign doctoral degree recognised as equivalent to a Norwegian doctoral degree is required. Experience in gearchaeology is most relevant, and experience in pedology, palaeoecology, geochronology and bioinformatics/biostatistics are advantages. English language skills are required. Norwegian/Scandinavian, French, and Italian language skills are advantages. Personal fit to the team and teamwork skills are important. Average physical condition is sufficient for the fieldwork.

Working conditions

The working hours will be utilised for research, research-related activities and research administration. The position may include duties in support of the research group or the University Museum of up to 10 % of the position. The successful applicant must be willing to engage in the ongoing development of his/her discipline and the University as a whole.

The remuneration for this position is in accordance with the State salary scale code 1352. A compulsory contribution of 2 % to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund will be deducted on top of tax.

Assessment

The applicants will be assessed by an expert committee. The committee's mandate is to undertake an assessment of the applicants' qualifications based on the written material presented by the applicants and the detailed description drawn up for the position. The applicants who are assessed as the best qualified will be called to an interview. The interview will, among other things, provide the opportunity to discuss the applicant's personal suitability for the position.

Application

The **application** must be submitted electronically via the application form available on www.jobbnorge.no and should include the following:

- Letter of application
- CV (containing a complete overview of education, supervised professional training and professional work)
- Certified copies of diploma for completed degrees
- Documentation of English language proficiency (not needed for native English speakers, Scandinavians or people educated in EU/EFTA)
- Complete list of works containing the following information:
 - author(s), the work's title
 - for articles: the journal's name and volume, the first and last page of the article, year of publication
 - for publications: publisher, printer, year of publication, number of pages
- Up to 10 works (published or unpublished) which the applicant wishes to be taken into consideration during the assessment. The doctoral thesis is regarded in this context as one work.
- List of referees with contact information.

All documentation that is to be evaluated must be certified and translated into English or a Scandinavian language and be submitted by the stipulated deadline.

More information and guidelines referenced in our announcement are available [here](#). Questions concerning the organization of the working environment, such as the physical state of the place of employment, health service, possibility for flexible working hours, part time, etc. may be directed to the telephone reference in this announcement.

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UiT has HR policy objectives that emphasize diversity, and it encourages all qualified applicants to apply regardless of their age, gender, functional ability and national or ethnic background.

UiT is an IW (Inclusive Workplace) enterprise, and will emphasize making the necessary adaptations to the working conditions for employees with reduced functional ability.

Personal data given in an application or CV will be processed in accordance with the Act relating to the processing of personal data (the Personal Data Act). In accordance with Section 25 subsection 2 of the Freedom of Information Act, the applicant may request not to be registered on the public list of applicants. However, the University may nevertheless decide that the name of the applicant will be made public. The applicant will receive advance notification in the event of such publication.