

Research fellow in community ecology

The University of Bergen (UiB) is situated in the centre of the city of Bergen. The university has about 14,300 students and about 3,300 faculty and staff members. The UiB is known for its high European research standard and houses a number of centres of excellence. We have a strong international profile and cooperate closely with other universities all over the world.

At the Department of Biology a 4-year position as research fellow (PhD candidate) is available within the field of community ecology in the Ecological and Environmental Change Research Group (EECRG - <http://www.uib.no/rg/EECRG>) and to The Heathland Centre at Lygra (<http://www.lyngheisenteret.no/engelsk%201%20side.htm>)

The EECRG is the largest research group at Department of Biology and is an internationally oriented research group with focus on patterns and processes of biodiversity; biotic responses to environmental change; invasive species, global ecology; palaeoecology, and biostatistics. We publish our research in the top international journals in our fields. We also have an extensive scientific network both nationally and internationally, and we have a highly collaborative research environment and high funding ability.

The Heathland Centre at Lygra is a national research and information centre for coastal cultural landscapes. Coastal heathlands are a greatly endangered landscape in Europe, and the Heathland Centre has received considerable international attention, including awards for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage from UNESCO, EU and EUROPA NOSTRA. The Centre's objectives are to:

- Manage the coastal heathland landscape at Lygra as a working cultural landscape, with a management regime as close to the traditional land-use practice as possible.
- Provide an infrastructure for research and teaching.
- Disseminate knowledge about the traditional coastal heathlands to the public.

The PhD-candidate will be involved in research work aiming to increase the understanding of important ecological processes in the heathlands and important factors for sustainable management of the landscape. Relevant topics for the project will be dynamics and succession in the heathlands, processes that governs the diversity of the heathlands, how changes in climate and other environmental factors affects these landscapes. The project is open for other topics that will use the heathlands as a model system to study general ecological and evolutionary problems. These topics can be studied both regionally and on a larger geographical scale. Applicants are encouraged to make a project proposal for the desired topic..

Applicants must have achieved a master's degree or equivalent in a relevant ecological discipline or have submitted their master thesis for assessment by the application deadline. It is a prerequisite, however, that the formal admission requirements for the PhD programme are met before appointment can be made.

Field experience, adequate statistical background, good communication and writing skills in English and a desire to engage in collaborative research is essential.

The research fellow must take part in the University's approved PhD programme leading to the degree within a time limit of 3 years. Application for admission to the PhD programme, including a project plan outline for the training module, will be worked out in collaboration with the research group in question.

In total, the fellowship period is 4 years. For positions with a 4-year duration 25 pct of the period will be designated to teaching and/or administrative duties. The fellowship period may be reduced if the successful applicant has held previous employment as research fellow.

The teaching language will normally be Norwegian.

Starting salaries at salary level 48 (code 1017/pay framework 20.8) in the Civil Service pay grade table scale; currently NOK 383,900 gross p.a.; following ordinary meriting regulations.

For further information about the position please contact John-Arvid Grytnes (john.grytnes@bio.uib.no)

State employment shall reflect the multiplicity of the population at large to the highest possible degree. The University of Bergen has therefore adopted a personnel policy objective to ensure that we achieve a balanced age and sex composition and the recruitment of persons of various ethnic backgrounds. Persons of different ethnic backgrounds are therefore encouraged to apply for the position.

The University of Bergen applies the principles of public openness when recruiting staff to scientific positions.

The successful applicant must comply with the guidelines that apply to the position at any time.

Information about the applicant may be made public even though the applicant has requested not to be named in the list of applicants. The applicant will be notified if his/her request is not respected.

Send electronic application, CV, certificates and diplomas by clicking on the button marked "APPLY FOR THIS JOB" on this page. The application should include a brief statement of the applicant's research interests and motivation for applying as well as the names and contact details of two references.

Application, CV, scanned copies of diplomas and transcripts (bachelor and master), and project proposal, should be sent via the link on this page: "APPLY FOR THIS JOB".

Closing date for applications: 10 December 2010

Quote reference number: 2010/12166