The University of Oslo is Norway’s oldest and highest rated institution of research and education with 28,000 students and 7,000 employees. Its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally esteemed research communities make UiO an important contributor to society.

Department of Biosciences (IBV) is a research and education department at the University of Oslo. The Department has one Centre of Excellence and four research sections. The Department has 52 faculty members and associate professors, and approximately 190 PhD students, post docs and researchers, in addition to technical and administrative staff. The working environment is international, and scientists from over 30 countries contribute to the working environment. The Department aims to maintain high international standards both within research and teaching.

IBV offers research-based education within several aspects of bioscience, including ecology, behavioural ecology, evolution, physiology, microbiology, biochemistry, biomedicine, genetics, bioinformatics and biotechnology. Around 380 students are enrolled in bachelor’s programs, and 90 in master’s programs.

**PhD Research Fellowship in Genomics**

Position as PhD Research fellow available at the Department of Biosciences.

The fellowship is for a period of 4 years, with 25 % compulsory work (teaching responsibilities at the Department) provided that the successful candidate has good knowledge of one of the Scandinavian languages (Norwegian, Swedish, Danish). Otherwise, the fellowship will be for a period of 3 years, with no compulsory work. Starting date will be no later than 01.10.2017. Note that no one can be appointed for more than one fixed-term period at the University of Oslo.

**Project description:**

We are searching for a highly motivated person with interest in plant genomics and plant development.

The PhD fellow will be connected to a collaborative project between CEES - Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis and the Section for Genetics and Evolutionary Biology. The project is associated with an ongoing project entitled “Evolutionary and functional importance of simple repeats in the genome” which is funded by the Research council of Norway through the FRIPRO program as a selected frontier research project.

As such, the candidate will be working in one of the leading research groups in Norway headed by professor Kjetill S. Jakobsen. The project focuses on the functional modulation of regulatory mechanisms affecting the phenotype by variations in simple tri-nucleotide repeats (TNRs) residing inside (coding) and in the vicinity (or in introns) of genes. Specifically, we will test the hypothesis that hypervariable coding/regulatory repeats are promoting the ability of a species or population to adapt to a changing environment. To address this we will use Arabidopsis and Atlantic cod as model systems. The project is cross-disciplinary and will utilize genomic, bioinformatics, statistics and experimental approaches. The appointed PhD candidate will work in a team consisting of 4 professors and 4 doctoral and post-doctoral candidates.

The larger project consists of three interconnected work packages (WPs) and the successful candidate will work on the WP entitled “Addressing the functionality of repeat variation in Arabidopsis and cod” led by Associate professor Melinka Butenko and Professor Anne Brysting. The project has international collaborators and research visits to collaborating partners will be encouraged.

The PhD candidate will focus on functionally testing the adaptive advantage of varying TNRs in the model system Arabidopsis thaliana and later expand the analysis to the related species A. lyrata and A. arenosa. The candidate will aim to establish a functional correlation between TNR variation and phenotype by the use of transgenic lines and the CRISPR/Cas9 system for selected classes of genes and investigate if the gene classes have conserved regions of TNRs across related plant species.

**Requirements/qualifications:**

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has a strategic ambition of being a leading research faculty. Candidates for this fellowship will be selected in accordance with this, and expected to be in the upper segment of their class with respect to academic credentials.

Applicants must hold a Master degree or equivalent in Biology and must be qualified for the doctoral program within this discipline. The successful applicant should preferably have skills and experience with molecular methods in plant biology and it will be an advantage to
have some experience in molecular evolution or bioinformatics methods for analysis of high throughput sequencing of genome data. It will be beneficiary for the candidate to have experience with the model plant Arabidopsis thaliana as well as the related species A. lyrata and A. arenosa.

Hands on experience with one or more of the following methods is desirable: protein-protein interaction techniques (such as Co-IP, BiFC, FRET), fluorescent imaging, cloning and recombinant DNA technology; gene expression analysis; genetic methods in Arabidopsis thaliana, e.g. using T-DNA insertion, RNAi, CRISPR/Cas9 system and/or reporter lines.

The purpose of the fellowship is research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD degree.

The fellowship requires admission to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The application to the PhD programme must be submitted to the department no later than two months after taking up the position. For more information see:

http://www.uio.no/english/research/phd/
http://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/phd/

A good command of English is required.

We offer:

- Salary NOK 436 900- 490 900 per annum depending on qualifications and seniority as PhD Research Fellow, (position code 1017)
- Attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement, in addition to Oslo’s family-friendly environment with its rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities.

How to apply:

The application must include:

- Application letter
- CV (summarizing education, positions and academic work - scientific publications)
- Copies of educational certificates, transcript of records and letters of recommendation
- Documentation of English proficiency
- List of publications and academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee
- A brief account (one page maximum, as a separate file) of the applicant’s research interests and motivation for applying for the position
- Names and contact details of 2-3 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and telephone number)

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, please follow the link “apply for this job”.

For further information please contact:

Professor Kjetill S. Jakobsen, phone: +47 22854602, or: +47 90741779 e-mail: k.s.jakobsen@ibv.uio.no

Associate Professor Melinka Butenko, phone: +47 22854573, or: +47 91766980 e-mail: m.a.butenko@ibv.uio.no

For information regarding the recruitment system:

HR adviser Torunn Standal Gutormsen, phone:+47 22854272, e-mail: t.s.gutormsen@mn.uio.no

UiO has an agreement for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results a.o.

Contact persons:

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