

## **PhD Position (3 years) in marine genomics and benthic ecology at University of Nordland**

*A Position as PhD student in marine genomics and benthic ecology is available at the University of Nordland, Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture.*

### **University of Nordland**

*The University of Nordland (UiN) offers studies at the Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level. Each year, students are admitted to more than 100 study programmes within professional studies and theoretical disciplinary studies. UiN offers PhD programmes in Business, Sociology, Aquatic Biosciences, and Professional Studies.*

*Today we have more than 6,000 students and 600 staff members on campus Bodø, Helgeland and Vesterålen.*

### **Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture (FBA)**

FBA is responsible for research, teaching and dissemination of knowledge within biosciences and aquaculture. In recent years, FBA has undergone a major development both in terms of faculty and infrastructure. Today FBA stands as an internationally diverse academic environment. The Faculty has approximately 80 employees in professional and technical/administrative support functions.

The teaching at the Faculty is research-based. FBA offers Bachelor's programmes in Biology, Export Marketing, Aquaculture Management and a unique Joint Bachelor Degree in Animal Science that grants students direct transfer to the veterinary studies at University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Slovakia. Moreover, we offer Master's programmes in Aquaculture and Marine Ecology, and a PhD programme in Aquatic Biosciences.

FBA aims to be a leading international arena in the High North for education, research and knowledge dissemination in aquaculture and marine ecology, fostered by a unique genomic platform and characterized by strong interaction between the disciplines. The Faculty possesses new, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities and operates a Research Station about 10 minutes from campus. The Research Station's primary mission is to facilitate and support research activities related to seawater-related laboratory activities and research on living marine organisms. The Faculty seeks to strengthen the relations between students, the research community, public sector and the industry.

*For more information, see The Faculty's website: [www.uin.no/english/aboutus/faculties/fba](http://www.uin.no/english/aboutus/faculties/fba).*

### **About the Position**

The Faculty of Bioscience and Aquaculture, University of Nordland in Bodø, Norway, opens for applications for a three-year PhD position in marine genomics and benthic ecology. The position is part of the researcher project "Next-generation biodiversity assessment and environmental monitoring of benthic communities using high-throughput DNA metabarcoding", financed by the

Research Council of Norway. The collaborating partners of the project are Ghent University (<http://www.ugent.be/en>), Akvaplan-niva ([www.akvaplan.niva.no/en](http://www.akvaplan.niva.no/en)), and the University of Nordland ([www.uin.no](http://www.uin.no)).

The primary objective of the project is to characterise marine benthic diversity in north Norwegian waters using high-throughput DNA technologies. The project aims to develop effective methods for DNA metabarcoding of benthic communities, and to analyse benthic diversity along natural diversity gradients and in environments influenced by human activities.

The PhD candidate will participate in the collection of environmental samples and processing of samples for DNA analysis, including next-generation sequencing and subsequent bioinformatics analyses. The project will seek to develop efficient methods for assessment and monitoring of benthic communities, based on comparison of traditional taxonomic classifications and novel DNA barcoding methods. It also aims to build taxonomic competence and contribute to a molecular reference database with particular focus on marine nematodes.

The successful applicant must have a MSc degree, or equivalent, in ecology, genomics, or a related field, and a focus on marine genomics and/or benthic ecology is preferred. Experience in DNA sequence analysis (preferred next-generation sequencing) and bioinformatics is mandatory. Knowledge of marine ecology is mandatory, except if the molecular skills are outstanding. Experience in taxonomic classification of benthic organisms, shipboard field work experience and statistical analysis are desirable, but not required.

Good communication skills in English, both oral and written, are required, as the Faculty operates in an international environment with many international visitors and staff members.

The PhD position is organized research training, implying that the candidate will obtain the PhD degree. It is required that the PhD student will be admitted to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture, and participate in the organized research training programme. Application for admission to the programme must be submitted within three months after admission. For admission requirements and regulations, see [www.uin.no](http://www.uin.no).

### **Personal skills**

The position requires a highly motivated, performance driven person with good capabilities of working independently as well as in teams.

### **Salary and Working Conditions**

The start salary for the PhD candidate is set at wage level 50 in the Norwegian State Salary Scale (ca NOK 416 600 per year). As an employee at the University of Nordland you become a member of the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund and you will also get access to other social benefits. A statutory amount to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund will automatically be deducted from the salary.

The person who is appointed must abide by the laws, agreements and directives that apply to the position at any time. The responsibilities and duties linked to the position may be altered due to future reorganization at the University of Nordland.

According to the employment policy of the institution, our staff should reflect the population in general. We encourage candidates with minority background to apply for the position. The University practices moderate allocation according to sex quotas in accordance with the Basic Agreement for the Civil Service.

### **Contact Information**

For further information, prospective applicants can direct their questions to Truls Moum ([truls.moum@uin.no](mailto:truls.moum@uin.no), phone +47 75517422/+47 90095956) or Henning Reiss ([henning.reiss@uin.no](mailto:henning.reiss@uin.no), phone +47 75517576).

### **Application**

You apply for this position by clicking on the link below:

---> **Click here to apply**

Applicants for the position are requested to send an application in which the motivation for applying is clearly stated, as well as a complete CV (education, scientific publications as well as work experience) and certified copies of educational certificates. Other qualifying activities should be verified.

Certified copies of diplomas and certificates indicating the **position No. 30032441** may as an alternative be sent by mail in three copies to University of Nordland, P.O. box 1490, 8049 Bodø, within the application deadline.

Application deadline: **March 16<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

After expiry of the application deadline a publicly available applicant list will be announced. Here we would like to draw attention to the fact that information about the applicant can be published, even though the applicant wishes this information to be left out. Applicants nevertheless asking for confidentiality must specifically explain the reasons for this in their application. The applicants will in which case be given advance notice of announcement.