



Doctoral Student position in marine biology (fixed term, 36 months) at the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Åbo Akademi University

Åbo Akademi University (ÅAU) is an internationally acknowledged research university with an extensive responsibility for providing education in Swedish in Finland. The Faculty of Science and Engineering is a research-intensive unit with activities in various fields, both nationally and internationally. The laboratories and research groups have a central role in the research activities, and extensive contact networks; collaboration with other universities and research institutes, as well as with industry. Doctoral studies at ÅAU provide students with systematic, high-level and supervised doctoral training.

Åbo Akademi University invites applications for a fixed term position as a doctoral student at Environmental and Marine Biology for the period 1.10.2019 – 30.9.2022 i.e. for 36 months (with possible extension and starting date negotiable), within the project "Inventories for ecosystem-based management of marine nature around Åland Islands".

Project description

The sea area around the Åland Islands, especially its northern part, is one of the most pristine archipelago areas of the northern Baltic Sea, but its potentially high marine nature values are partly unmapped. At the same time activities related to blue growth, such as shipping, fish farming, wind energy production and tourism, are expected to increase, being future threats to the marine environment.

Our project focuses on mapping the marine areas around the Åland Islands, and aims to enhance ecosystem-based management, marine conservation, sustainable use of the sea, and maritime spatial planning in the area. The project is funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation. During the project, extensive inventories on the underwater marine environment will be carried out by a field team (3 people), following mainly the methods developed during the national VELMU programme. In the project, close cooperation takes place with managers responsible for marine issues at the Åland Islands.

The framework set by the project offers possibilities to study many interesting research topics, ranging from basic ecological questions to more applied subjects related to marine management and marine conservation. Potential research themes could be e.g. algae/plant-herbivore interactions, species and habitat distribution modelling, marine indicators, MPA -design and questions related to marine connectivity, or impacts of various human activities on the marine ecosystem. The final subject of the PhD-candidate's thesis can be tailored mainly according to the interests of the applicant, yet supporting the major goals of the project.

Conditions of Employment

The PhD-student will mainly be stationed in Turku/Åbo at the campus of ÅAU (www.abo.fi/en/), and perform fieldwork related to the thesis at Husö biological station (<https://www.abo.fi/en/huso-biological-station/>) on the beautiful Åland Islands. Close collaboration will take place with PhD-students and other staff at the department. Within ÅAU, a PhD should be completed within 4 years. The

principle for total working time (1624 hours per year) is applied to employed doctoral students, and a trial period applies to new employees.

Salary

The salary for the PhD-student is in accordance with the Finnish University salary system for teaching and research personnel, job demand levels 2–4, where the work specific salary component is 2033,29 €–2535,20 € per month. In addition, the appointee shall be paid a salary component based on personal work performance, according to the general collective agreement for universities.

Qualifications

The applicant is required to have a Master's degree in marine biology, environmental biology, ecology or other relevant field. An ideal candidate shows high motivation and enthusiasm for science and ability to work independently. Experience in fieldwork (diving, navigation, driving a small boat), good skills in statistics and GIS are an advantage. Working language is English (and Swedish).

Application

Submit the electronic application form below (www.abo.fi/jobb), including the following attachments:

1. Motivation letter explaining why you are interested in and suitable for the position
2. CV, including education, research experience and a list of relevant publications
3. A short (max 2 page) presentation of your interests /preliminary research plan for your PhD
4. Name and contact information of two academic references

Deadline for submission of application is on 13th September 2019 at 16 p.m. (Finnish time). Complete documentation is required.

Please, feel free to contact either PhD Henna Rinne (henna.rinne@abo.fi) or PhD Sonja Salovius-Laurén (sonja.salovius@abo.fi) for any questions in relation to the position.

Please contact HR Specialist Anna Lübchow, (alubchow@abo.fi) for questions regarding the application form.

Marine and Environmental Biology at Åbo Akademi University offers an excellent research-training environment, including courses and transferable skills and career development plans. The successful candidates will be supervised by affiliated principal investigators, and all doctoral students will be integrated in successful research groups and international networks (primarily Nordic, Baltic Sea-region, and European research- and training programs currently funding our research). The unit also belongs to the strategic research area The Sea at ÅAU.

Åbo Akademi University is actively working for equal gender distribution and diversity in all staff categories.

Applying starts: 2019-08-16 13:00

Applying ends: 2019-09-13 16:00

Leave an application