PhD Research Fellow in genomics, ecotoxicology and ecology of bumblebees

Job description

Position as PhD Research Fellow in genomics, ecotoxicology and ecology of bumblebees is available at the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis (CEES) at the Department of Biosciences, University of Oslo.

The fellowship will be for a period of 3 years with the possibility to apply for a period of 4 years, with 25% compulsory work (e.g. teaching responsibilities at the department) contingent on the qualifications of the candidate and the teaching needs of the department.

Starting date no later than 01.10.2021.

No one can be appointed for more than one PhD Research Fellowship period at the University of Oslo.

Wild bumblebees are important pollinators that provide crucial ecosystem services for a wide range of wild plants and commercial crops. Nonetheless, the species diversity of bumblebees is declining through a combination of drivers, including pesticides, parasites, invasive species, climate change and habitat loss. In Norway, there is limited knowledge on the long-term trends, causes of decline and spatial distribution of diversity of bumblebees. The PhD candidate will study the species diversity, and ecology of bumblebees in Norway, and examine its link to pesticide
use and exposure. Specifically, the candidate will investigate patterns of spatiotemporal diversity using high-throughput sequencing of recent and historical collections of bumblebee specimens as well as assess current and historic pesticide use and exposure. This work builds towards a deeper understanding of long-term changes in the spatial distribution of bumble bee diversity caused by pesticide use in Norway.

The PhD will be part of a collaboration between the research groups of Assoc. Prof. Bastiaan Star (CEES, UiO), who works in the field of (palaeo)genomics and molecular ecology, Prof. Katrine Borgå (AQUA, UiO), an expert in ecotoxicology, Dr. Anders Nielsen (NIBIO), an expert in behavioural ecology and plant pollinator interactions and Markus Sydenham (NINA), a macroecologist who is specialized in bumblebee ecology and conservation management.

Qualification requirements

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has a strategic ambition to be among Europe’s leading communities for research, education and innovation. Candidates for these fellowships will be selected in accordance with this, and expected to be in the upper segment of their class with respect to academic credentials.

We seek a highly motivated and competent candidate, with the following formal qualifications:

- Master’s degree or equivalent within evolutionary biology, population genetics/genomics; (pollinator) ecology, toxicology or a similar subject
• Foreign completed degree (M.Sc.-level) corresponding to a minimum of four years in the Norwegian educational system
• Experience with ecotoxicology, (DNA) laboratory methods, high-throughput sequencing, population genetics and bioinformatics are considered important qualifications
• Strong analytical skills are considered an advantage

Candidates without a Master’s degree have until 30 June, 2021 to complete the final exam.

**Grade requirements:**

The norm is as follows:

• the average grade point for courses included in the Bachelor’s degree must be C or better in the Norwegian educational system
• the average grade point for courses included in the Master’s degree must be B or better in the Norwegian educational system
• the Master’s thesis must have the grade B or better in the Norwegian educational system
• Fluent oral and written communication skills in English.
• English requirements for applicants from outside of EU/ EEA countries and exemptions from the requirements:

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

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/ and http://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/phd/
Personal skills

- We seek a highly motivated, enthusiastic person with the ambition to gain insight and publish papers in leading, international journals
- Interpersonal skills and the capability to work in close collaboration with others with different cultural and scientific backgrounds.

We offer

- Salary NOK 482 200 – 526 000 per annum depending on qualifications and seniority as PhD Research Fellow (position code 1017)
- Attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement
- Vibrant international academic environment
- Career development programmes
- Oslo’s family-friendly surroundings with their rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities

How to apply

The application must include

- Cover letter - statement of motivation and research interests
- CV (summarizing education, positions and academic work – scientific publications)
- A brief (A4) project plan for the proposed research
- Copies of the original Bachelor and Master’s degree diploma, and transcripts of records
- Documentation of English proficiency
- List of publications and academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee
- 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”). Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University's grading system. Please note that all documents should be in English or a Scandinavian language.

Applicants may be called in for an interview.

**Formal regulations**

Please see the guidelines and regulations for appointments to Research Fellowships at the University of Oslo.

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According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

The University of Oslo has an agreement for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results etc.

Inclusion and diversity are a strength. The University of Oslo has a personnel policy objective of achieving a balanced gender composition. We also want to have employees with diverse expertise, combinations of subjects, life experience and perspectives. We will make adjustments for employees who require this.

If there are qualified applicants with special needs, gaps in their CVs or immigrant backgrounds, we will invite at least one applicant in each of these groups to an interview.

**Contact information**

For further information please contact: Dr. Bastiaan Star, e-mail: bastiaan.star@ibv.uio.no, Dr. Katrine Borgå, e-mail: katrine.borga@ibv.uio.no, Dr. Anders Nielsen, e-mail:
About the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo is Norway’s oldest and highest rated institution of research and education with 28 000 students and 7000 employees. Its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally esteemed research communities make UiO an important contributor to society.

Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis (CEES) is a research centre and a section at the Department of Biosciences, University of Oslo. CEES combines a broad spectrum of disciplines (population biology, genomics, statistics, mathematical modelling) to foster the concept of ecology as a driving force of evolution via selective processes, with a corresponding influence of evolutionary changes on ecology. CEES has over 180 members (Professors (20), postdocs/researchers (60), PhDs (35), Master’s students (40) and technical and administrative staff) and many guest researchers. The members represent 30 nationalities and constitute a vibrant and creative research environment. CEES coordinate several international networks. The budget = 170 million NOK (about 55 externally funded research projects). CEES successfully completed its 10 year status of Centre of Excellence (CoE) in 2017.
Deadline
28th February 2021

Employer
University of Oslo

Municipality
Oslo

Scope
Fulltime

Duration
Engagement

Place of service
Blindern