



**UiT The Arctic University of Norway**  
The Arctic University Museum of Norway and Academy of Fine Arts

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## PhD Fellowship to investigate benthic meiofauna in Northern Norway and the Barents Sea

### The position

A PhD position is available at the [Arctic University Museum of Norway](#), UiT - the Arctic University of Norway. The appointed PhD Fellow will be based in the marine invertebrates section of the scientific collection-based taxonomy and biosystematics research group ([NatSciCol](#)).

The workplace is at UiT in Tromsø. You must be able to start in the position within a reasonable time after receiving the offer.

The position is for a period of four years. The nominal length of the PhD programme is three years. The fourth year is distributed as 25 % each year and will consist of teaching and other duties. The objective of the position is to complete research training to the level of a doctoral degree. Admission to the PhD programme is a prerequisite for employment, and the programme period starts on commencement of the position.

### The position's field of research

Meiofauna is not dangerous, not palatable, and not deleterious, and this might be the reason why it is often ignored, despite the important functions and ecosystem services these organisms provide. Expertise in meiofauna is limited due to many unknown species, a lack of researchers in the field, and a lack of studies on individual meiofauna taxa.

The goal of this position is to investigate benthic metazoan meiofauna composition in different areas of the Barents Sea under different ice regimes (seasonal and regional variation) in cooperation with The Nansen Legacy project. The Nansen Legacy project aims to establish a holistic understanding of the changing marine climate and ecosystem in the northern Barents Sea and adjacent Arctic Basin through a collaborative project between ten Norwegian research institutions.

The PhD project will use a combination of traditional morphological methods to identify and describe new species, molecular barcoding approaches, and analyses of large biodiversity data sets.

The candidate will gain expertise in taxonomy, phylogenetic analyses, molecular biology, and benthic and high latitude ecology.

Specific project goals will be developed together with the candidate depending on personal research background and interests.

### Contact

For further information about the position, please contact Associate Professor Andreas Altenburger:

- email: [andreas.altenburger@uit.no](mailto:andreas.altenburger@uit.no)

### Qualifications

The candidate must have:

- Masters degree (or equivalent) in the biological sciences, preferably in one of the following fields: taxonomy, molecular biology, ecology
- Interest in taxonomy of marine benthic meiofauna
- Documented knowledge of English

Advantages for the position are:

- Advanced knowledge of biology of at least one meiofaunal group
- Knowledge in advanced microscopy techniques
- Experience in PCR based molecular techniques
- Experience in data analyses with R

It is expected that the candidate demonstrates:

- Ability to collaborate and work comfortably in international teams

- Self-motivation, enthusiasm, independence and strong and creative problem-solving ability
- Strong work ethic and commitment to the job

The applicants must present a description outlining the academic basis of the PhD project. The project description shall not exceed 2 pages, literature references included. It must include a description of the theme, research question(s) and a reasoning of the choices. It should also indicate the methodologies to be used. The final project description will be developed in cooperation with the supervisor.

As many as possible should have the opportunity to undertake organized research training. If you already hold a PhD or have equivalent competence, we will not appoint you to this position.

## Admission to the PhD programme

For employment in the PhD position, you must be qualified for admission to the PhD programme at the [Faculty of Biosciences, Fisheries and Economics](#) and participate in organized doctoral studies within the employment period.

Admission normally requires:

- A bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS and a master's degree of 120 ECTS, or an integrated master's degree of 300 ECTS.
- A master's thesis with a scope corresponding to at least 30 ECTS for a master's degree of 120 ECTS.
- A master's thesis with a scope corresponding to at least 20 ECTS for an integrated master's degree of 300 ECTS.

Grade requirements applies both to the master thesis as well as courses part of the master's degree. The minimum requirements are grade C or better on the master's degree, and grade C or better on courses that are part of the master's degree. A grade lower than C in one course may be compensated by a higher grade than C in another course. If the applicant has two subjects with the grade D or lower, the applicant is not qualified for admission. A more detailed description of admission requirements can be found [here](#).

Applicants with a foreign education will be subjected to an evaluation of whether the educational background is equal to Norwegian higher education, following national guidelines from [NOKUT](#). Depending on which country the education is from, one or two additional years of university education may be required to fulfil admission requirements, e.g. a 4-year bachelor's degree and a 2-year master's degree.

If you are employed in the position, you will be provisionally admitted to the PhD programme. Application for final admission must be submitted no later than six weeks after taking up the position.

## Inclusion and diversity

UiT The Arctic University of Norway is working actively to promote equality, gender balance and diversity among employees and students, and to create an inclusive and safe working environment. We believe that inclusion and diversity are a strength and we want employees with different competencies, professional experience, life experience and perspectives.

If you have a disability, a gap in your CV or immigrant background, we encourage you to tick the box for this in your application. If there are qualified applicants, we invite at least one in each group for an interview. If you get the job, we will adapt the working conditions if you need it. Apart from selecting the right candidates, we will only use the information for anonymous statistics.

## We offer

- Involvement in an interesting research project
- Good career opportunities
- A good academic environment with dedicated colleagues
- Flexible working hours and a state collective pay agreement
- Pension scheme through the state pension fund
- More practical information for working and living in Norway can be found here: <https://uit.no/staffmobility>

## Application

Your application must include:

- Cover letter explaining your motivation and research interests
- CV
- Diploma for bachelor's and master's degree
- Transcript of grades/academic record for bachelor's and master's degree
- Explanation of the grading system for foreign education (Diploma Supplement if available)
- Documentation of [English proficiency](#)
- References with contact information
- Master's thesis, and any other academic works
- Project idea: description related to the project theme of meiofauna in the Barents Sea (1-2 pages)

Qualification with a master's degree is required before commencement in the position. If you are near completion of your master's degree, you may still apply and submit a draft version of the thesis and a statement from your supervisor or institution indicating when the degree will be obtained. You must document completion of your degree before commencement in the position. You must still submit your transcripts for the master's degree with your application.

All documentation to be considered must be in a Scandinavian language or English. Diplomas and transcripts must also be submitted in the original language, if not in English or Scandinavian. We only accept applications and documentation sent via Jobbnorge within the application deadline.

## General information

The appointment is made in accordance with State regulations and guidelines at UiT. At our website, you will find more [information for applicants](#).

A shorter period of appointment may be decided when the PhD Fellow has already completed parts of their research training programme or when the appointment is based on a previous qualifying position PhD Fellow, research assistant, or the like in such a way that the total time used for research training amounts to three years.

Remuneration for the position of PhD Fellow is in accordance with the State salary scale code 1017. A compulsory contribution of 2 % to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund will be deducted.

We process personal data given in an application or CV in accordance with the Personal Data Act (Offentleglova). According to the Personal Data Act information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure. You will receive advance notification in the event of such publication, if you have requested non-disclosure.

## UiT - Developing the High North

UiT is a multi-campus research university in Norway and the northernmost university of the world. Our central location in the High North, our broad and diverse research and study portfolio, and our interdisciplinary qualities make us uniquely suited to meet the challenges of the future. At UiT you can explore global issues from a close-up perspective.

Credibility, academic freedom, closeness, creativity and commitment shall be hallmarks of the relationship between our employees, between our employees and our students and between UiT and our partners.

Jobbnorge-ID: 207457, Søknadsfrist: 31. juli 2021