

## 40 PhD positions for interdisciplinary sustainability initiatives

NTNU is increasing its focus on sustainability and announcing internal research projects for better understanding at a systems level changes in the area of sustainability. In scope, the investment amounts to over 40 PhD positions.

“This is significant both for NTNU and in a national context”, says Vice-Rector for Research Tor Grande.

NTNU has for many years had sustainability as a priority area. Sustainability is a clear objective in the University’s strategy “Knowledge for a better world”. The strategy states that NTNU will provide the tools needed for making a transition to a more sustainable society. We will do this by clearly prioritizing efforts and resources in line with the UN's sustainability goals.

In the annual plan for 2021, we specified how we will translate the guidelines into concrete measures. The goal is to strengthen our role as a knowledge and competence provider for sustainable development and sustainable solutions.

This investment is a direct follow-up of Rector Anne Borg's focus on quality and sustainability.

### **Goal is to contribute to knowledge-based sustainable development**

The sustainability goals aim to see the environment, economy and social development in context. A key principle is that no one should be left out. The time horizon for making the necessary changes is short, and when scaling up measures from research to practice, it is necessary to avoid major negative side effects. At the same time, it is necessary to stimulate an interaction between positive side effects.

In order to gain a better understanding of systems related to transformative changes in the field of sustainability, NTNU has therefore now earmarked 40 PhD positions in sustainability, where systems understanding and conflicts of interest between different sustainability goals in addition to critical factors for successful restructuring in society are central themes.

“This is necessary for NTNU to be able to graduate candidates with the knowledge needed to meet the sustainability challenges, and for us – through research, innovation and dissemination – to be able to influence changes in society”, says Grande

### **Connection across professional environments**

The concept of sustainability is all-encompassing. NTNU has strong academic environments with high sustainability competence in technology and science. It is also important that the academic environment within the humanities and social sciences is strengthened on its own terms.

Knowledge development about changes at the societal level is not possible without making better connections between each of these cultures. This is not well enough developed at NTNU today, but the opportunity is large, and future announcements in Norway and the EU are likely to require more of such links.

“We believe that this can give us a competitive advantage in future announcements from, for example, the EU and NFR where these topics are highly relevant”, says Grande

**Financing and application deadline**

The project is funded by an earmarked allocation of 30 positions in mathematics, science and technology from the Ministry of Education and Research (KD). In addition, NTNU has added 10 extra positions so that other academic environments can also participate in the announcement.

The application deadline is **16 August 2021**, and only employees in a permanent scientific position can be the project manager for such a project.

**Find out more here:**

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