

URGENT: Seeking a MSc-candidate who is highly motivated for a PhD study (4 years) on the effects of parasites on a wild host passerine, the house sparrow.

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) has announced that a number of PhD candidates will be employed spring/summer 2016, and the application deadline is 17th of January 2016. It is likely that one of these Faculty positions will go the Department of Biology.

Students who want to apply have to fulfill the requirements announced (see link below, and translated text to English in the end of this document).

One important point is that in order to apply the applicant needs to have a project to work on and a supervisor at the Department of Biology, NTNU. Thus, a short description of the project has to be attached to the application. Finally, the Faculty will offer the PhD position to the student that is best qualified (with emphasis on grades and background).

Therefore, if you are highly motivated to apply for a PhD position and fulfill the requirements, but do not have a PhD project then this may be an opportunity for you:

*I currently have a very relevant PhD project for one highly motivated student that aims to investigate the influence of macroparasites on the population dynamics of a passerine host, the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). Hence, I can provide the PhD project you need in order to apply for the position.*

At the Centre of Biodiversity Dynamics we have been studying the effects of parasites, in particular *Syngamus trachea* (gapeworm) on their house sparrow host. Based on the work conducted in relation to one PhD-thesis and two MSc-projects we have established knowledge of the basic mechanisms. Since 2007 we have routinely collected individual data on the prevalence and abundance of parasites in local insular house sparrow populations along the coast of northern Norway. One advantage with our study system is that we have extensive data on individual variation in annual – and lifetime – reproductive success based on genetic parentage analyses in several house sparrow populations. This enables us to address fundamental hypotheses on co-evolutionary mechanisms between parasite and host, as well as how the effects of parasites affect host population dynamics in time and space. The study will focus on 2 parasite species, and how they (separately, and jointly) affect vital life history parameters (e.g. survival rates and reproductive rates) of the host species (the house sparrow). We will also investigate the heritability of resistance, and the potential role of diversity in MHC on this. We seek a highly motivated candidate that has a background within relevant disciplines, such as evolutionary ecology and/or parasitology and/or experiences within genetic analyses. It is an advantage if you are familiar with the statistical package R in order to analyse the data material (e.g. generalized mixed models).

As a PhD student you will be part of a vital research group (“House sparrow project”) that includes several professors, researchers, post docs, and PhD students at the Centre of Biodiversity Dynamics (www.ntnu.edu/cbd). The study will be conducted in island populations along the beautiful coast of Helgeland in northern Norway.

Please contact me for further information on e-mail with your CV attached as soon as possible if you:

1. find this PhD project interesting
2. Have completed your Master’s-degree with very good results
3. fulfill the requirements specified in the announcement (see the translated announcement text below, or the link above in norwegian)

Best regards

[Thor Harald Ringsby, Associate Professor \(PhD\)](#)

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Trondheim, Norway

Please contact me on email; Thor.H.Ringsby@ntnu.no

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Here is an English translated version of the announcement:

NTNU - knowledge for a better world

At NTNU, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Faculty of Science and Technology

Up to 12 fellowships at the Faculty of Science and technology - all areas

Faculty of Science and Technology (NT) consists of six departments with disciplines within both technology and natural sciences. We are now searching for up to 12 researcher sprouts as dedicated to their profession, and who want to contribute to research in our disciplines. You can read more about the faculty and institutes here: <http://www.nt.ntnu.no>

The period of employment is normally four years including one year teaching duties, but it may be appropriate to reduce the period of employment down to 3 years without teaching duties. Reduced period of employment depends on the need for teaching resources of the department where the candidate is appointed and available resources. In order to safeguard the teaching duties may be a requirement that you speak Norwegian or a Nordic language and that you have relevant experience in education.

QUALIFICATIONS

The required master's degree or equivalent in one of the disciplines at the NT faculty. Masters last two years must be completed with average grade of B or better, or alternatively documentation similar level through later research work. It also required average grade of C or better for BSc. Average grade shall be stated in the application. Candidates who delivers thesis before 1 July 2016 are encouraged to apply for research fellowships.

To get consideration for these positions you must contact potential supervisors at one of the departments at the NT faculty to prepare a short research proposal to be submitted with the application. Applications without a project will not be considered. The contact person for the positions or heads of departments at the institutes to provide such contact if desired.

Good knowledge of English, both written and oral, is a prerequisite. Candidates from non-English-speaking countries outside the region must attach a public language test report. Approved tests TOEFL, IELTS and Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) or Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE).

As a fellow you agree to participate in organized doctoral study within the period of employment and employment assumes that you actually are eligible for admission to the PhD program. Fellows must abide by the conditions laid down for public officials. It is a prerequisite that you settle yourself so that you can be present and available for NTNU.

We can offer:

Varied and challenging tasks in an international, development-oriented and good working

environment.

Good pension, insurance and loan schemes in the state pension. Salary according to national salary. From salary 2% statutory state pension scheme.

Appointments are made in accordance with applicable national guidelines for appointment as a research fellow at universities and colleges with supplementary guidelines for NTNU.

The appointment is subject to the conditions at any time apply for government officials.

NTNU personnel policy objectives that the staff shall reflect the diversity of the population structure in general with emphasis on gender balance and diversity.

Applications should be submitted electronically through this page. CV, certificates, project description and diplomas both master's and bachelor's program must be submitted electronically.

Only applications registered in jobbnorge.no will be taken into consideration.

For further information about the positions, please contact the Vice Dean for Research Tor Grande,
tel: 97 61 69 18,
e-mail: tor.grande@ntnu.no

Job reference number: NT-73/15

Deadline: 01/17/2016