



UNIS is a state-owned limited company with five of Norway's universities represented on the board. We are located in a modern working environment in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, and is well equipped with both technical and scientific equipment and laboratories. The institution has an infrastructure for both marine and terrestrial field, lab and experimental research. The studies at UNIS are marketed internationally and all classes are offered in English. Approximately half of the staff and students are from abroad.

PhD position in Meteorology - Air-Cryosphere-Sea interaction processes around Svalbard and in the Arctic

General

The Department of Arctic Geophysics (AGF) at the University Centre in Svalbard is now seeking candidates for a four years PhD position within meteorology with a focus on Air-Cryosphere-Sea interaction processes around Svalbard and in the Arctic. Currently the department constitutes 3 professors, 4 associate professors, 2 researchers, 1 post-doctoral research fellow, 4 PhD students and 11 Adjunct Professors (20% position). The ACSI (Air-Cryosphere-Sea Interaction) group within the department focuses on the Air-Cryosphere-Sea interaction processes through observation and model experiments.

Description of the vacant position

We seek a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual with strong academic ambitions and who has an ability to work successfully in a team.

The main objective of this PhD project is an enhanced understanding of the linkage between local and larger-scale weather conditions over the region of Svalbard, and related exchange processes connected to the atmospheric boundary layer such as orographically influenced flows and air-cryosphere-sea interactions. Specifically, the project will be connected to on-going research activity within the ACSI group, which focuses, amongst others, on the study of how changes in large-scale atmospheric circulation patterns in recent years over Fram Strait and the Barents Sea region have led to increased inflow of warm Atlantic Water (AW) to adjacent coastal waters - resulting in a strongly reduced sea ice production during winter.

The successful candidate will have an active part in fieldwork around Svalbard for the collection of new datasets related to the research project. Furthermore he/she will have access to and make use of a broad range of scientific tools and databases including long-term climate records from automatic weather stations (AWS), atmospheric reanalysis datasets, numerical weather prediction models and various measurement platforms for atmospheric research, including AWS and novel, remotely piloted measurement systems. Experience with several of the aforementioned tools and datasets is therefore preferable.

The PhD candidate is expected to take an active role in producing peer-review papers within the mentioned topics that eventually will lead to the final PhD dissertation. Some teaching and supervision of undergraduate and Master students can be expected.

Qualifications

The successful candidate must have a Master degree in meteorology, oceanography or a related field and a good understanding of atmospheric boundary-layer and/or regional-scale processes is preferred.

Experience from fieldwork and skills in using scientific instruments for making meteorological observations are an advantage, as well as experience with atmospheric models and reanalysis data sets. Good oral and written skills in English are important.

Admission to the doctoral programme at the Geophysical Institute, University of Bergen, is a condition of employment in the position as PhD student. The final plan for researcher education shall be approved and a contract signed with the mainland university at the latest six months after commencement. The candidate and the supervisors will prepare the application.

Employment conditions for the PhD position

The employment contract is of 4 years and includes mandatory duties of 25% including teaching and supervision.

The successful candidate must live in Longyearbyen. He/she is expected to contribute actively to on-going scientific activities in the department. It is also expected that the PhD student takes an active part in the advancement of his/her field of research, and he/she must also be willing to contribute to the development of UNIS in a more general sense.

Salary

All salaries are set in accordance with the Norwegian government's University salary scale. Ph.D student are offered a gross salary starting at salary step 50, which currently is a gross salary of NOK 429 400.- As a resident in Svalbard an annual allowance of NOK 32 000.- (Svalbardtillegg) will be added to the salary. A Social Security contribution of 2 per cent, to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund, will be deducted from the salary. Income tax on Svalbard is 8 per cent, plus 8.2 per cent toward National Insurance coverage.

Selection and appointment

An expert Committee appointed by the Managing director of UNIS will evaluate the qualifications of the applicants. The Committee will review the applications in detail and summarize their assessments in a written report. This report and the derived recommendations form the basis for interviews, which will be summarized by the expert committee. They report to the Appointment Committee and Director of UNIS, which makes the final appointment.

Application and further information

Other inquiries about this position may be directed to:

Assoc. Prof. Marius O. Jonassen.

Email: marius.jonassen@unis.no, or telephone: +47 79 02 3339.

Deadline for application is 15th of July 2015

Please apply online by using our application form found at www.unis.no/vacancies

At the end of the form, please attach:

- A one page project description which outlines a plan for the PhD project that is within the scope of the research topics outlined in this announcement and that reflects his/her research interests. This description will form the basis for the final project description that will be formulated in collaboration with the candidate and the supervisor.
- Copy of your CV
- Transcript of records

- Other documentation you find relevant for the application.

You can request to have your application kept from public access cf. the open files act § 25. The request must be explained. UNIS will determine if the application will be kept from public access or not, based on the explanation and the regulations from the open files act. If the application will not be accepted, the candidate will be contacted.

