



Jobbnorge ID: 285460

Deadline: 01.10.2025

Website: <https://www.uib.no/om/84775/ledige-stillinger-ved-uib>

Scope: Fulltime

Duration: Fixed Term

PhD Research Fellow in Quaternary geology and paleoclimate

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Video: <https://youtu.be/i4SDcLir6Oc>

PhD Research Fellow in Quaternary geology and paleoclimate

There is a vacancy for a PhD Research Fellow in Quaternary geology and paleoclimate at [the Department of Earth Science](#) and the [Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, University of Bergen](#). The position is for a fixed-term period of 3 years, with the possibility of a 4th year contingent upon additional work (e.g., teaching duties at the Department). The position is affiliated with the [Centre for Mountains in Transition](#) (CMT), a new interdisciplinary research centre based at the University of Bergen, funded by the Trond Mohn Foundation (TMF) and the University of Bergen.

About the project/work tasks:

CMT is dedicated to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate and environmental change in mountain regions. With a primary focus on the Scandinavian mountains, CMT brings together climate science, ecology, hydrology, geoscience, and social sciences to explore how mountain systems are changing—and how we can build resilience for the future. Mountains are sensitive to global change. Increasing temperatures, melting glaciers, shifting precipitation and snow patterns, changing biodiversity, and increasing human pressures are transforming these landscapes. CMT aims to generate cutting-edge knowledge and practical solutions to safeguard mountain ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. Through four interconnected research themes—Trends, Seasonality, Extremes, and Resilience—CMT investigates long-term environmental changes, seasonal dynamics, extreme events, and strategies for sustainable mountain management. The centre collaborates closely with stakeholders, including national parks, local communities, and industry partners, ensuring that research is relevant, actionable, and impactful. The University of Bergen hosts CMT in collaboration with NORCE, NMBU, and other national and international partners.

This PhD project aims to investigate the retreat of mountain glaciers in Norway by comparing patterns from the post-Little Ice Age (LIA) period—primarily driven by natural climate variability—with contemporary retreat patterns influenced by anthropogenic climate change. The research will combine advanced remote sensing techniques with ultra-high-resolution analyses of lake sediments to reconstruct glacier dynamics across multiple regions. The findings will contribute to understanding future glacier changes in Scandinavia and globally and will be communicated to stakeholders and European mountain research centres. The central research question is: What is the significance of glacier retreat patterns along the Norwegian coast following the LIA compared to current retreat patterns? How do these two phases differ in terms of rate, extent, and underlying climatic drivers? The main tasks include creating site-specific continuous reconstructions of glacier variability for selected areas in Norway. This involves landscape analyses using satellite images before field mapping. The time series will be based upon studies of sediments deposited in glacier-fed distal lakes analysed with ultra-high-resolution scanning methods. These results will be compiled into a record of glacier retreat from the LIA to the present within the Scandinavian Mountain region at human-relevant scales.

Qualifications and personal qualities:

- Applicants must hold a master's degree or equivalent education in earth science. Master's students may apply if they complete their degree by 01.01.2026. Employment is conditional on the degree being awarded.
- Demonstrated experience generating paleoenvironmental data, notably using lake sediment proxy approaches (for example, XRF and CT core scanning, as well as grain size analysis) is a requirement.
- Experience with (geostatistical) data analysis approaches (at least Excel and ArcGIS, but preferably also R and Grapher or similar) is a requirement.
- Strong skills in statistical analysis and the handling of large spatiotemporal datasets are a requirement.
- Applicants must have excellent communication skills in English, both written and oral.
- Applicants must be able to work independently and in a structured manner and demonstrate good collaborative skills.

Personal and relational qualities will be emphasized. Research experience, ambitions and potential will also count when evaluating the candidates.

Special requirements for the position

The University of Bergen is subject to the regulations for the export control system. The regulation will be applied in the processing of the applications.

About the PhD position:

About the PhD Research Fellow

The fellowship will be for a period of 3 years, with the possibility for a 4th year contingent on the qualifications of the candidate and the teaching needs of the department and will be decided by the Head of department upon appointment. If a 4th year is granted, one year of career-promoting work associated with teaching, dissemination or research infrastructure/services, will be distributed over the full employment period and thus corresponding to 25 per cent of the time each year.

The employment period may be reduced if you have previously been employed in a qualifying post (e.g., research fellow, research assistant).

About the research training

As a PhD Research Fellow, you must participate in an approved educational programme for a PhD degree within a period of 3 years. The deadline for applying for admission to the PhD programme at The Faculty of Science and Technology is 2 months after you start your position or after the start of the research project that will lead to the PhD degree. It is a condition that you satisfy [the enrolment requirements for the PhD programme](#) at the University of Bergen.

We can offer:

- A good and professionally stimulating working environment
- Salary as a PhD research fellow (code 1017) in the state salary scale. This constitutes a gross annual salary of NOK 568 700. Further salary increases are made according to the length of service in the position.
- Enrolment in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Good [welfare benefits](#)

Your application must include:

- A cover letter outlining your research interests and motivation for applying for the position (2 pages max).
- The names and contact information for two referees. One of these should be the primary advisor for the master's thesis or its equivalent.
- CV
- Transcripts and diplomas showing completion of the bachelor's and master's degrees. If you have not yet completed your master's degree, please submit a statement from your institution confirming the expected date of award of your master's degree. Your master's degree must be documented with transcripts and/or diploma before starting in the position.
- relevant certificates/references
- approved documentation of proficiency in English (if required, cf. [English language requirements for PhD admission](#))
- a list of any works of a scientific nature (publication list)

The application and appendices with certified translations into English or a Scandinavian language must be uploaded at Jobbnorge

General information:

For further details about the position, please contact Professor Jostein Bakke, Department of Earth Science (Jostein.Bakke@uib.no / +47 55583503).

For HR related questions, contact Adviser Mathilde Høgalmen (Mathilde.Høgalmen@uib.no).

Diversity is a strength that enables us to tackle our tasks even more effectively. UiB therefore needs qualified employees regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, worldview, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and age.

The University of Bergen applies the principle of public access to information when recruiting staff for academic positions.

Information about applicants may be made public, even if the applicant has requested not to be included on the list of persons who have applied. The applicant must be notified if the request to be omitted is not met.

We encourage applicants with disabilities, immigrant backgrounds, or gaps in their CVs to apply. By indicating such circumstances in your application, you may receive favourable consideration. We ensure that at least one qualified applicant from each of these groups is invited for an interview as part of our commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunity.

Further information about the employment process can be found [here](#).

Life as a PhD candidate at UiB

Marion Claireaux tells about life and work as a PhD candidate at UiB.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrtP6VxMeJ4&index=2&list=PLf8ZIYfAO0qjhROtj6StDbSScg0lSO6G>

About UiB

The University of Bergen is a renowned educational and research institution, organised into seven faculties and approximately 54 institutes and academic centres. Campus is located in the centre of Bergen with university areas at Nygårdshøyden, Haukeland, Marineholmen, Møllendalsveien and Årstad.

There are seven departments and several centres at Faculty of Science and Technology. [Read more about the faculty](#) and [departments](#).

Additional information

Place of service:

Allégaten 41 5007 Bergen (Bergen Municipality)