



Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas

Doctoral Research Fellow in Philosophy - GoodAttention

Job description

A Doctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) in philosophy is available at the Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Arts and Ideas at the University of Oslo.

The Doctoral Research Fellowship is associated with the project «[GoodAttention](#)» funded by the European Research Council (ERC).

We are looking for candidates whose planned PhD project falls broadly within at least one of the following areas: Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind and Psychology, Philosophy of Social Science, Social and Political Philosophy.

The candidate is expected to develop a project description, which must be submitted as a part of the application. The candidate's PhD project will contribute to the GoodAttention project.

More about the position

What is good attention? Much public discussion about social media, public health, and political debates is focused on versions of this question. What deserves our attention and how we should regulate attention in the face of distraction, for example, occupies the debate. What is missing is a philosophical investigation of attention norms and a framework for thinking about them. GoodAttention investigates normative questions about attention: what are appropriate, correct, or rational patterns of attention. This is then connected to how attention actually works: both in an individual and in groups and societies. GoodAttention integrates research in psychology, neuroscience and linguistics with the philosophical fields of decision theory, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy. It investigates the cognitive and social mechanisms of norm-guided attention. And it integrates attention into normative philosophy.

This PhD position is specifically associated with the research strand in GoodAttention that connects questions about attention with epistemology. This sub-project investigate the role of attention in epistemology and the rational status of the role of attention in the acquisition and exchange of knowledge and in inquiry. The subproject looks, among other things, at epistemic norms, norms of inquiry, and attention norms, and asks how they are related. Some possible angle include: the epistemic role of attention, attention and epistemic rationality, attention and epistemic injustice, the social role of attention in the exchange of knowledge, epistemic issues in the attention economy, attention and social epistemology, and more. The candidate's proposed PhD research need not be directly about one of those topics. Candidates should, though, in their research description and application letter address how it may relate to them.

The candidate will be situated in a strong, lively and supportive research environment, both at [GoodAttention](#) and the related [SalientSolutions](#) project; they will also have the opportunity to be integrated in relevant research networks, such as the [Oslo Mind, Language and Epistemology Network](#), the [Practical Philosophy Group](#), and the [Centre for Philosophy and the Sciences](#).

The candidate will have the opportunity also to make use of the [international advisory board](#) associated with [GoodAttention](#), for research interactions, research visits, or other forms of collaboration.

The person appointed will be affiliated with the Faculty's organized research training. The academic work is to result in a doctoral thesis that will be defended at the Faculty with a view to obtaining the degree of PhD. The successful candidate is expected have Oslo as their primary workplace and to join the existing research milieu or network and contribute to its development. Read more about the [doctoral degree](#).

The appointment is for a duration of 3 years. All PhD Candidates who submit their doctoral dissertation for assessment with a written recommendation from their supervisor within 3 years or 3 ½ years after the start of their PhD position, will be offered, respectively, a 12 or 6 month [Completion Grant](#).

Qualification requirements

- A Master's degree in philosophy or an equivalent qualification. The Master's degree normally must have been obtained and the final evaluation must be available by the application deadline. In exceptional cases, we can consider applications from candidates who do not yet have an MA degree but who are close to completing one. If so, the degree must be awarded by the time the position is taken up
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English, see [Language requirements](#)
- Personal suitability and motivation for the position

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programmes at the University of Oslo, applicants must, as a minimum, have completed a five-year graduation course (Master's degree or equivalent), including a Master's thesis of at least 30 ECTS. In special cases, the Faculty may grant admission on the basis of a one-year Master course following an assessment of the study programme's scope and quality.

In assessing the applications, special emphasis will be placed on:

- The project's scientific merit, research-related relevance and innovation.
- The applicant's ability to contribute to the «Attention and Epistemology» strand of the GoodAttention project.
- The applicant's ability to produce philosophical work of high quality

- The applicant's estimated academic and personal ability to complete the project within the time frame
- The applicant's ability to complete research training
- Good collaboration skills and an ability to join interdisciplinary academic communities

Applicants who have recently graduated with excellent results may be given preference.

We offer

- Salary NOK 501 200 - 544 400 per annum depending on qualifications
- A professionally stimulating working environment
- Membership in the [Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund](#)
- Attractive [welfare benefits](#)

How to apply

The application must include:

- Application letter describing the applicant's qualifications and motivation for the position
- Curriculum Vitae (with a list of education, positions, teaching experience, administrative experience and other qualifying activities, including a complete list of publications)
- Transcript of records of your Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Applicants with education from a foreign university must attach an explanation of their university's grading system
- Documentation of [Language requirements](#) (if applicable)
- A project description, including a detailed progress plan for the project (3 - 5 pages, maximum 14,000 characters. See [Template for project descriptions](#))
- An academic writing sample of up to 8000 words

Please note that all documents must be in English or a Scandinavian language.

Educational certificates, master theses and the like are not to be submitted with the application, but applicants may be asked to submit such information or works later.

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, [jobbnoe.no](#).

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

Formal regulations

See also [regulations](#) as well as guidelines for [the application assessment process](#) and [appointments](#) to research fellowships.

Following the Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) § 25, Chapter 2, demographic information about the applicant may be used in the public list of applicants even if the applicant opts out from the entry in the public application list.

The University of Oslo has an [Acquisition of Rights Agreement](#) for the purpose of securing rights to intellectual property created by its employees, including research results.

The University of Oslo aims to achieve a balanced gender composition in the workforce and to recruit people with ethnic minority backgrounds.

Contact information

For questions about the position:

Associate Professor and PI [Sebastian Watzl](#), e-mail: sebastian.watzl@ifikk.uio.no

For questions about how to apply:

HR Officer [Anders Rykke](#), e-mail: anders.rykke@hf.uio.no

About the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo is Norway's oldest and highest ranked educational and research institution, with 28 000 students and 7000 employees. With its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally recognised research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

The Department embraces four disciplines: Philosophy, Classical Languages (Greek and Latin), History of Ideas and Art History. The Department is also responsible for the introductory philosophy courses, obligatory for all students attending study programmes at the University of Oslo. The Department has about 110 employees.

Jobbnoe-ID: 234350, Søknadsfrist: 15. januar 2023