



Doctoral Research Fellowship in (computational) semantics

Job description

A Doctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) in (computational) semantics is available at the [Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies](#), University of Oslo.

The Doctoral Research Fellowship is funded by the Norwegian Research Council and is associated with the project Universal Natural Language Understanding. The overall goal of the project is to create semantic representations in the form of Discourse Representation Structures from Universal Dependencies syntax trees, by using both rule-based techniques from Glue Semantics and (neural) machine learning approaches in a process that normalizes the syntax trees, rewrites the nodes as lambda terms in a course-grained, language-independent manner and composes them. In addition, the project will do language-specific enrichment of the resulting semantic representations based on available lexical resources for Norwegian. Prospective applicants who want to know more about the project should contact the PI, Professor Dag Haug.

The PhD fellow will be part of the project's core team together with a postdoctoral fellow, a research programmer and the PI. The candidate is expected to contribute to building the overall system and to conduct research closely connected to the main project. It is essential for the project that the team as group is competent in both theoretical and computational approaches to semantics.

More about the position

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 to join the existing research milieu or network and contribute to its development. Read more about the [doctoral degree](#).

Within two months of the starting date, the candidate should, in collaboration with the PI, develop a full project description of their doctoral project, including a detailed progress plan for the project.

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 or equivalent in theoretical or computational linguistics. The Master's degree must have been obtained and the final evaluation must be available by the application deadline.
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English.
- 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 applicant's estimated academic and personal ability to complete a PhD related to the project within the time frame
- The need to establish a team with complementary skill sets
- 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 479 600 - 523 200 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
- A statement of research outlining the candidate's previous achievements and future goals for their research and how they fit the present project

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, please follow the link "**apply for this job**".

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:

Professor Dag Trygve Truslew Haug

Head of Department Piotr Garbacz

For questions about the recruitment process:

HR Adviser Tonje Olsen

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 of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies (ILN) is one of seven departments at The Faculty of Humanities (HF). The department conducts research, teaching and dissemination in general linguistics, Nordic languages (Scandinavian linguistics and Norwegian as a second language), multilingualism, medieval studies (Norse philology and Celtic), Nordic literature (including dissemination of literature and Ibsen-studies), and rhetoric and verbal communication. The Department hosts a socio-cognitive laboratory offering powerful equipment for various types of experiments and studies

Jobbnorge ID: 188483, Deadline: Continuously, Customer reference: 2020/5718