

DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Job description

A Doctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) in Old Norse philology is available at the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo.

The Doctoral Research Fellowship is connected to the Norwegian Research Council funded project “Old Norse Poetry and the Development of Saga Literature (SagaPoetry)”, project number 313688. The main goal of this project is to investigate the importance of skaldic poetry to the development of Old Norse saga literature. The project sets out with two overall hypotheses:

- First, that skaldic and to some extent eddic poetry had a profound formative effect on the development of Old Norse saga literature, and one that goes far beyond what previous scholarship has appreciated.
- Second, that there was a development where early saga authors quoted poetry as sources and as documentation of historical facts, whereas poetry later became an integrated part of the production of saga narrative. Gradually, the practice of quoting poetry became a stylistic ideal in its own right, and saga authors would then increasingly compose poetry themselves and attribute it to the protagonists.

For more information, please visit the [project website](#).

Applicants are expected to present an independent research project proposal that addresses one or more core research themes of the overarching project. Possible topics include investigation into the background of key prosimetrical genres and works.

Current members of the project study sagas of Icelanders, kings' sagas, legendary sagas, *Landnámabók* and skaldic poems as precursors to sagas. Applicants may opt to expand on one of these topics or to explore other genres. For instance, contemporary sagas and the prosimetrum of the *Eddas* are not covered in the project description. Applicants may also investigate aspects of the poetic tradition that are relevant for the emergence of saga literature, or address the main hypotheses in some other way.

The choice of methodological and theoretical frameworks and perspectives should be elaborated by the applicants.

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](#).

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 Old Norse philology or in literature, linguistics or medieval studies, provided it has a prominent Old Norse component. 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. The project's working language for internal communication and project meetings will be Scandinavian (Norwegian, Swedish, Danish), and some proficiency in a Scandinavian language is therefore required.
- 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 estimated academic and personal ability to complete the project within the time frame
- **Intellectual independence (e.g. the ability to generate hypotheses based on real problems, rather than on current scholarly trends)**
- 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 XXX – XXX per annum depending on qualifications ([lønnsstrinn 51-58 LO/YS/UNIO](#))
- 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
- Project description, including a detailed progress plan for the project (3–5 pages, see [Template for project descriptions](#))

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.

Deadline:

Contact persons: Applicants may contact mikael.males@iln.uio.no with questions or in order to receive the full project description.