

Doctoral Research Fellowship within the “CLIMA”-project

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

Job description

The PhD position is funded by the research Council of Norway and is associated with the research project CLIMA *Cross-linguistic influence in multilingual acquisition* (project number: 324318), 2021-2026. CLIMA is a collaborative project between NTNU the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and the University of Oslo and also involves extensive international collaboration. The successful candidate is expected to present and conduct a research project connected to Work Package 1 in the CLIMA project. In addition to the PhD position at UiO, there will be a corresponding position at NTNU, connected to Work Package 2 [LENKE TIL NTNU-STILLINGA I JOBBNORGE].

For more information about CLIMA, see <https://www.ntnu.edu/isl/clima>

About the project

Acquiring multiple languages is extremely common. CLIMA addresses gaps in research on multilingualism concerning the role of cross-linguistic influence (CLI) and learner-internal factors in third language acquisition (L3A). An ongoing debate addresses the question of how previously learned languages affect acquisition of the grammar of an L3, and of the source and nature of CLI on morphosyntactic structures in L3A. Research within CLIMA is organized in 3 work packages. Work Package 1: *Norwegian as L3*, Work Package 2: *German, French or Spanish as L3*, and Work Package 3: *Prior language knowledge in L3 acquisition*.

CLIMA investigates L3A of word order, specifically placement of finite verbs, which is central to language competence. Verb placement has been studied previously in L3A research, but different studies have found contradictory evidence with respect to CLI over the course of acquisition. CLIMA focuses on participants with systematically different combinations of first, second, and third language. Participants in Work Package 1 have Spanish, French or German as L1, English as L2, and Norwegian as L3, while participants in Work Package 2 are L1 speakers of Norwegian with L2 English and French, Spanish or German as L3. These languages differ systematically with regard to verb placement, and CLIMA investigates the influence of these linguistic differences. The project also has a strong focus on learner-internal factors and on the properties of prior language knowledge, both in terms of second-language proficiency and use, and of metalinguistic knowledge (Work Package 2). We furthermore ask whether the previous inconclusive results within research on L3 acquisition of verb placement may in part be due to methodological differences; CLIMA has a particular focus on methodology and triangulates experimental methods to avoid an unwanted association between methods and outcomes. CLIMA will contribute to our understanding of the human language learning capacity in general and of multilingualism in particular, as well as for additional language learning and teaching.

The work and responsibility of the project

The advertised position is connected primarily to Work Package 1 *Norwegian as L3*. Participants in this WP will be adult learners of Norwegian L3 living in Norway, with L1 German, French or

Spanish and L2 English. Work in this WP will address questions related to cross-linguistic influence of structural properties and developmental trajectories, where the same participants are tested at different proficiency levels. WP1 in CLIMA is responsible for the development of a standardized proficiency test for Norwegian.

The successful candidate is expected to work closely with the PhD candidate hired at NTNU (WP2: *German, French or Spanish as L3*). Both candidates will also contribute to WP3: *Prior language knowledge in third language acquisition*

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 Linguistics, Multilingualism, language studies or another relevant field. 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 Norwegian, Swedish or Danish, and in English, see [Language requirements](#)
- Personal suitability and motivation for the position.

Preferred qualification

- Experience with previous research within language acquisition or multilingualism
- Experience with research on Norwegian, Swedish or Danish
- Experience with relevant methodologies

The CLIMA project is a joint project between UiO and NTNU. The successful candidate will be expected to work closely with the other researchers in the CLIMA project, and in particular with the PhD candidate at NTNU. In the hiring process for both PhD positions we will seek to hire candidates with complementary competence.

Applicants must provide a general contextualizing statement/proposal (maximum 3 pages) indicating how they see their background and experience fitting into the CLIMA project, especially related to Work Package 1

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
- 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 491 200 – 534 400 per annum depending on qualifications (lønnstrinn 54-59 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, indicating how they see their background and experience fitting into the CLIMA project, especially related to Work Package 1
- Contextualizing statement/proposal (max 3 pages), detailing how the candidate plans to contribute to the research done in Work Package 1 of the CLIMA project
- 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

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, jobbno.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.

Deadline:

Januar 20, 2022

Contact persons:

For further information about the position, please consult the website and/or contact the project leader of CLIMA or the PI of Work Package 1 by e-mail:

Associate professor Anne Dahl (leader of CLIMA): anne.j.dahl@ntnu.no

Associate professor Guro Busterud (PI of Work Package 1): guro.busterud@iln.uio.no