

PhD candidate in cardiovascular disease epidemiology in the Arkhangelsk-Tromsø PhD Program of the Northern State Medical University, Arkhangelsk (NSMU) and UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø

Application deadline: 07.12.2020

From a joint UiT and NSMU grant, NSMU has a position vacant for an applicant who wishes to obtain the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the Faculty of Health Sciences, UiT.

The position is a part of the Arkhangelsk-Tromsø PhD Program ([ArkTroPP](#)). The purpose of ArkTroPP is to develop joint UiT-NSMU research in the field of Public Health and other Health Sciences. This is being achieved by pursuing PhD-research at the doctoral program at the UiT Faculty of Health Sciences with shared financing and administration of the doctoral training from UiT and NSMU. At least one supervisor for a PhD student is from the research group Arctic Health Research at the Department of Community Medicine, UiT, and NSMU provides employment and office space.

The appointment has the objective of completion of research training to the level of a doctoral degree, starts 01.03.2021, and is for a fixed period of three or four years. The annual salary amount is based on the salary standard for a researcher at NSMU and depends on the individual qualification (e.g., holding a Russian Degree of a Candidate of Sciences). The three-year option comprises a full-time PhD occupation with a possibility to hold in addition a maximum of a 20% position at a clinical institution if relevant for the PhD. For four years, 25% of the time is allocated to teaching or clinical work at NSMU or elsewhere, and is paid separately.

Admission to a PhD programme at UiT is a prerequisite for employment at a research position at NSMU, and the program period and salary start on commencement of the position.

The PhD candidate is expected to participate in the PhD research training given at UiT (30 ECTS of mandatory and voluntary courses), to write at least three scientific papers, a PhD thesis and to defend it during the period of employment.

For travels related to taking courses at UiT or elsewhere, supervision, and for other expenses that are necessary for completing the PhD project operational costs are provided from UiT and additional applications.

Information about the application process for admission to the PhD programme at UiT, application form and regulations for the PhD degree are available at the UiT [internet pages](#).

Further information about the position is available by contacting Alexander Kudryavtsev (ispha09@gmail.com) at NSMU and Tormod Brenn at UiT (tormod.brenn@uit.no).

The position's affiliation

The position is going to have double affiliation: UiT and NSMU.

NSMU was established in 1932 for training medical personnel in the European North of Russia. It is an accredited and state-funded medical university. Currently NSMU has about 6000 students from 17 countries in 16 faculties. It has about 1000 staff members, including 80 professors.

At UiT, the Faculty of Health Sciences has approximately 1000 staff members, 385 PhD students and 2900 students. The faculty is divided into eight departments.

The Department of Community Medicine is currently divided into five research groups: System Epidemiology, Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases, Arctic Health Research, General Practice and Health Service Research. There are no sharp boundaries within the department, as research projects are often collaborations across disciplines.

The department employs approximately 180 persons.

The position's field of research/research project and other duties

The field of research is cardiovascular disease epidemiology. The research project is expected to be a part of the Heart to Heart (H2H) initiative aiming to understand the reasons for the large difference between Russia and Norway in premature CVD mortality by making comparisons between the 7th wave of the Norwegian Tromsø Study (Tromsø 7) and the Know Your Heart (KYH) study in Novosibirsk and Arkhangelsk. The two studies were conducted in 2015-2018 using similar protocols and this has generated a unique and extensive set of comparable data that allows identifying differences in risk factors, biomarkers, and cardiovascular structural and functional phenotypes. The collected data also allow investigating differences between Norway and Russia in lifestyle and social determinants of health, specific health conditions like kidney and respiratory dysfunction, anxiety and depression, use of health care services and medications. The doctoral study plan can imply using only the KYH data, or it can be a comparative H2H study implying the use of both KYH and Tromsø 7 data sets. Various statistical methods are to be applied including regression analyses. The statistical programs are SPSS and Stata.

Qualification requirements

The announced PhD position requires a strong academic background in Public Health, clinical medicine or other Health or Social sciences, at least at a Master Level. Education from International School of Public Health in Arkhangelsk (ISPHA)/UiT is preferable. An average grade of the Master of C or better is required. Applicants with a relevant Russian education can also apply and be accepted. The ability to work independently with data management and statistical analyses is essential.

The applicant must speak and write English and Russian fluently. Language proficiency requirements in English can be viewed at the UiT [internet pages](#). Previous research experience is desirable.

Assessment

An expert committee with representatives from UiT and NSMU will assess the applicants. Emphasis will be on to the applicant's potential for research as shown by a Master's thesis, other sufficient education, and/or any other academic works.

In addition, consideration may be given to work experience or other activities of significance for the implementation of the PhD studies. Information and material to be considered during the assessment must be submitted by the given deadline.

The applicants who are assessed as the best qualified will be called to an interview. The interview shall among other things aim to clarify the applicant's personal suitability for the position as well as ability to work in a research team.

Application

The application shall contain:

- Letter of application (in English)
- Letter of motivation (in English)
- CV (containing a complete overview of education, supervised professional training and professional work) (in English)
- Copies of:
 - *diploma and transcript from your Bachelor's degree or equivalent*
 - *diploma and transcript from your Master's degree or equivalent*
 - *diploma supplement for completed degrees*
 - *project description on how the candidate plans to the PhD work to be undertaken*
- List of publications (optional)
- Copies of relevant academic works/publications (if there are any).

Questions concerning the organisation of the working environment, such as the physical state of the place of employment, health service, possibility for flexible working hours, part time, etc. as well as questions about the PhD program may be directed to the listed contact persons.

UiT has policy objectives that emphasize diversity, and therefore encourages qualified applicants to apply regardless of their gender, functional ability and national or ethnic background.

Personal data given in an application or CV will be processed in accordance with the Act relating to the processing of personal data (the Personal Data Act). In accordance with Section 25 subsection 2 of the Freedom of Information Act, the applicant may request not to be registered on the public list of applicants. However, UiT may nevertheless decide that the name of the applicant will be made public. The applicant will receive advance notification in the event of such publication.

Submission

Application documents shall be emailed to Alexander Kudryavtsev at e-mail ispha09@gmail.com.