Revidert utlysningstekst – 3.januar 2014

Professor/Associate Professor in Evolutionary Genomics

The Natural History Museum (NHM) of the University of Oslo holds extensive collections of animals, fungi, and plants. Besides being the foundation for the classification of organisms, the collections are also important repositories for studying various aspects of geographical and temporal variation in biodiversity. The recent development of sequencing techniques that are suitable for ancient or historical specimens with degraded DNA, has significantly increased the potential to take advantage of the unique documentation of life on Earth preserved through natural history museum collections.

The museum´s strategy emphasizes the importance of using the collections as a gene bank and to extract the genetic information of specimens for use in science. NHM is also building up collections of fresh DNA/tissue samples and is heavily involved in the global DNA barcoding initiative. The museum has established an ancient-DNA laboratory for extraction of highly degraded DNA from museum samples and from environmental samples, and runs a regular DNA laboratory. Through a strategic collaboration with the Department of Biosciences at our university, NHM has access to central high-throughput DNA sequencing facilities and is partner in a joint effort to establish a new ancient-DNA laboratory which will be hosted by the Department of Biosciences.

We now want to strengthen the museum's focus on collection-based science by increasing our competence in high-throughput sequencing techniques applied to biodiversity research and, in particular, to degraded DNA from museum collections and environmental samples.

The museum has recently reorganized its research department into smaller research groups representing the main research topics within biology at NHM. These include sexual selection and speciation in animals, animal systematics, plant evolution, taxonomy and phylogeny of plants and fungi, and modelling of geo-ecological patterns and processes. More information can be found at the NHM homepages (www.nhm.uio.no/xxxx/).

Job description

It is expected that the successful candidate should take a lead in coordinating and developing the museum´s research in evolutionary genomics and biosystematics with emphasis on the use of highly degraded DNA. He/she should be an asset for the whole research department but is expected to associate formally with one of the existing research groups. Additional internal resources, including PhD and postdoc positions, will be made available. The successful candidate will be expected to attract extramural research funding, and a proven record of accessing such funding is essential. The candidate will participate in teaching evolutionary genomics, including courses under the bachelor and master programs of UiO, and should be a capable and enthusiastic supervisor of master and PhD students. Relevant background for taking the scientific responsibility for parts of the museum´s collections is an advantage, but not a requirement. Duty work may also include providing assistance in phylogenomics and bioinformatics to the research community at NHM.

Qualifications

To qualify for appointment as Professor/ Associate Professor, the applicant must have documented scientific work equivalent to a doctorate, and several years of post - doctoral experience.

We seek an active researcher in evolutionary genomics with a strong publication record. The successful candidate should be on an upward trajectory and is expected to have strong potential to execute research projects at a high international level and to perform research in areas that will have synergistic effects with current research in the museum. He/she should have the ability to create an attractive research environment and the ideal candidate´s research would address fundamental questions in evolutionary genomics and biosystematics. The candidate should have a solid background in high-throughput DNA sequencing and in bioinformatics.

Candidates for the position should supply a research plan, which demonstrates how the applicant's research will strengthen or create synergy effects on current research at the museum. Applicants, who at the time of appointment cannot document formal teaching competence, must acquire such competence in the course of two years.

The teaching languages at the University of Oslo are Norwegian and English. The person appointed to the position is expected to be able to teach in Norwegian or English or both.

Evaluation

In the assessment of applicants, emphasis will be placed on the research potential and then teaching and other academic qualifications, as well as those for management and administration. Personal qualities, such as international networking skills, ability to collaborate, communication skills, team-working skills and scientific leadership will be emphasized. The quality and extent of the applicants' scientific production during the last five years will be given particular weight, as well as experience in modern research methods and techniques. Interviews will be performed in the appointment process, and trial lectures may be required.