

PhD positions in epidemiology/biostatistics within the field of reproductive health or perinatal epidemiology at Tbilisi State University (TSU) and the University of Georgia (UG) through a grant from UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø

Application deadline: 25.03.2016

From a UiT grant, TSU and UG have two PhD positions vacant for applicants who wish to obtain the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) at the Faculty of Health Sciences, UiT. At least one supervisor will be from the research group Arctic Health Research at the Department of Community Medicine, UiT and employment is provided at TSU and UG, respectively.

The appointment has the objective of completion of research training to the level of a doctoral degree, starting September 2016 and is for a fixed period of three years (plus one semester). The job comprises full time PhD occupation with an additional maximum 20 % position at a clinical institution (if relevant for the PhD).

Admission to a PhD programme is a prerequisite for employment, and the program period and salary start on commencement of the position. The PhD Candidate is expected to participate at UiT in the faculty's organized research training (30 ECTS of mandatory and voluntary courses given at UiT), and complete the PhD project during the period of employment. It is also expected that the candidates join the EPINOR research school. Information about the application process for admission to the PhD programme, application form and regulations for the degree of Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) as well as EPINOR are available at the UiT internet pages.

About the project CPEA-2015/10057 project "Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH) "

The overall goal of the CPEA-2015/10057 project "Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH) " is to increase public health competence in Georgia by modifying and replacing two existing master programs with one new, international, high-quality Master program in Public Health (MPH) that focuses especially on register-based epidemiology. The new MPH will be a joint venture between two higher education institutions in Georgia.

The project further aims to educate students on master and doctoral level to utilize the large amount of data generated from newly developed national health registries in Georgia. Furthermore, this project will also enhance knowledge transfer between Norway and Georgia in terms of register-based epidemiology and public health. Both the Norwegian and Georgian partner institutions will benefit from these activities.

The proposed project involves Norwegian and Georgian institutions of higher education that already have a well-established and on-going collaboration in the field of public health. Namely, UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT), Tbilisi State University (TSU) and the University of Georgia (UG).

The creation of a nation-wide medical birth registry in Georgia was made possible through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) funding, UiT, the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and Consulting & IT Innovations (CiTi) and was officially launched on January 1, 2016. The Georgia Birth Registry (GBR) is projected to register around 60 000 births each year, thereby generating an enormous amount of data that has the potential to improve the entire nation's antenatal care situation. Furthermore, the public health system in Georgia has recently been completely reorganized from a paper-based system into a digital e-health platform in which disease registries are an important component.

In light of this implementation of a national medical birth registry, both TSU and UoG want to prioritize and specialize in register-based epidemiology through their respective public health departments. The Department of Community Medicine at UiT has over 30 years of experience in research on register-based epidemiology.

The specific goals of this project will ensure a long-term and sustainable solution for TSU and UoG in their efforts to focus on register-based epidemiology and public health.

PhD Programs at TSU, UG and UiT

Information about PhD Program ,”Public Health and epidemiology” at TSU is available at the following address <https://www.tsu.ge/ge/faculties/medicine/iohhv8uz94cegijez/doctor/>

Information about PhD Program ,”Public Health and epidemiology” At UG is available at the following address <https://online.ug.edu.ge/programs/pdf/doctor/175.pdf>

Information about PhD Program at UiT is available at the following address: https://en.uit.no/om/enhet/artikkel?p_document_id=169998&p_dimension_id=88108&men=28713

Qualification requirements

The suitable candidate must hold a Medical Degree, DMD Degree or a Master’s Degree within Public Health, Health Administration, Nursing/Midwifery. Master and medical students in the final stages are also qualified to apply, but have to document a completed degree before August 1. A master thesis (or equivalent) grade of B or better, is required.

The applicant must speak and write English fluently.

Previous research experience is desirable.

The candidate must be able to work systematic, independent and have the ability to work in an interdisciplinary research team.

Emphasis will be placed on the communicative and collaborative skills, as well as personal suitability and the motivation and interest in the project.

Working conditions

The normal period of employment is 3 years (plus one semester). The nominal length of the PhD programme is three years.

Remuneration for the position of PhD Candidate is between 500 and 1000 Euros per month.

Assessment

The applicants will be assessed by an expert committee. During this assessment process, emphasis will be attached to the applicant’s potential for research as shown by:

- Master thesis or equivalent
- any other academic works
- documented ability to work independently
- skills in scientific writing in English

- knowledge and interest of the project`s specific topic
- Interest and motivation for this specific project

In addition, consideration may be given to work experience or other activities of significance for the implementation of the PhD studies, and to any teaching qualifications. This includes teaching education, teaching experience, experienced from popularization and experience/education from other types of dissemination. Information and material to be considered during the assessment must be submitted by the stipulated deadline.

The applicants who are assessed as the best qualified will be called to an interview. The interview shall among other things clarify the applicant`s personal suitability for the position.

Application and submitted documents (see below), shall be sent electronically on the following addresses:

erik.anda@uit.no

nino.chikhladze@tsu.ge

t.lobjanidze@ug.edu.ge

Application documents

- Letter of application (a short formal application text – max. ½ page)
- Letter of motivation (please explain why you would like to work with science and why we should pick you for the job - max. 1 page)
- Project description (please suggest a scientific project including subject areas, papers, hypotheses within birth registry research in Georgia - max 2 pages)
- CV containing an overview of education, supervised professional training and professional work
- Certified copies of:
 - *diploma and transcript from completed degree(s)*
 - *documentation of English language proficiency*
 - *references (min. 2)*
- Works (published or unpublished) that the applicant wishes to be taken into consideration during the assessment process.