PhD and Postdoctoral positions in biostatistics

Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, NO

Regional Research Support (FST) is part of the Oslo Hospital Services division at Oslo University Hospital. The unit delivers services and advice to research groups and employees at Oslo University Hospital and other hospitals that are part of the South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority. FST consist of the following 5 departments; Research Administration & Biobank, Oslo Center for Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Clinical Trial Unit, Health Registry Support and Comparative Medicine. FST has approximately 90 employees and collaborates closely with broad range of academic areas and diciplines within the University of Oslo.

The Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology (OCBE) is a joint center integrating the activities of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Oslo (UiO) and the Section of Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Health Economics at Oslo University Hospital (OUS). OCBE have expanded considerably during the recent years, becoming one of Europe’s most active biostatistics groups. Oslo University Hospital is a highly specialized hospital in charge of extensive regional and local hospital assignments. As Scandinavia’s largest hospital, OUS carries out more than 1.2 million patient treatments each year. University of Oslo is Norway’s oldest and highest rated institution of research and education with 28 000 students and 7000 employees.

Only applications submitted through Webcruiter will be considered.

Job Description

- We are seeking two dedicated and enthusiastic candidates for one PhD position and one postdoctoral position at the Oslo Centre for Biostatistics and Epidemiology (OCBE), Oslo, Norway, developing and applying new statistical methods to estimate causal effects of workplace initiatives on long-term sick leave and work participation. Both positions are part of a project led by researcher and associate professor Jon Michael Gran, with funding from the Research Council of Norway. The project will utilize unique linked, large-scale population-wide registry-data, in cooperation with the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) and other leading national and international researchers. Together we wish to contribute with new statistical methodology and important insights to the field.
- Sickness absence, disability and withdrawal from the labor market are great burdens for society, and increased work participation is a key political objective. This project aims to assess the effects of national initiatives for doing so, such as the Norwegian Agreement on a More Inclusive Working Life, the IA Agreement,
and the use of graded sick leave. Data on a unique population-wide birth cohort, utilizing large-scale registry and health data linked at individual level, is available and previously unexploited for this purpose. Large resources are used in collecting data on welfare and health in Norway, but much of the potential knowledge from registries is never really recovered. The main aim of this project is to develop and use new statistical methods for this purpose.

- The two successful candidates will have their work place at OCBE and work together as part of a multidisciplinary project group, based at OCBE and NIOH. At OCBE, they will be part of larger research group working on methods for causal inference and survival analysis, with broad experience and high profile international collaborators.

Qualifications

- Applicants for the PhD position must hold a master’s degree in statistics or mathematics, or a corresponding education at master level with a documented competence in statistics. If the master’s degree is not completed at the point of application, a statement of the supervisor must be provided with an expected date for obtaining the degree (no later than 1 of September 2018).
- Applicants for the postdoctoral position should have a PhD in statistics or a related area. Expertise in survival analysis is preferred. Experience with causal inference, longitudinal analysis and/or analysis of registry data or other large datasets is also an advantage.
- The candidates must have a genuine interest in developing and applying new statistical methodology to unresolved medical and epidemiological research questions.
- The candidates should have good computer programming skills (in R, Matlab, C or Python).
- Applicants should have good communication skills, with a high level of written and oral English language.
- The candidates must have the ability to work independently and efficiently.
- The candidates should be used to working in team.
- Students who expect to complete their Master’s degree studies by the summer of 2018 are encouraged to apply for the PhD position.
- The purpose of the PhD fellowship is research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD degree. The fellowship requires admission to the research training program at the Faculty of Medicine at University of Oslo. The admission must be approved within three months from starting the grant. For more information see: http://www.med.uio.no/english/research/doctoral-degree/. The PhD in Norway has limited course work, focusing on producing research papers of high quality, which are expected to be published or submitted before the PhD thesis is defended.
- PhD students who are close to defend their PhD are encouraged to apply for the postdoctoral position.
• In assessing applications, particular emphasis will be placed upon the academic and personal ability of the candidate to complete the project within the given time-frame. Interviews with selected candidates will be arranged.

The application must include:

CV (summarizing education, positions, academic work and other relevant activity), application letter including a half page motivation statement, copies of educational certificates, names and contact details for at least two references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and telephone number). For candidates for the postdoctoral position and other candidates with research experience: list of publications and academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee.