Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric

Thor Heyerdahl Professor - 4 years

The Department of International Environment and Development Studies, Noragric, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), is pleased to announce the establishment of the Thor Heyerdahl Professorship in health, environment and development and invites applications for the position from qualified persons. The 4-year professorship, partly sponsored by the Thor Heyerdahl Institute, honours the legacy of the well-known Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl who contributed in many ways to cross-cultural understanding, international cooperation and interdisciplinarity in research.

Thor Heyerdahl was a gifted communicator and controversial in his research throughout his life. He is one of the most famous Norwegians abroad. He captivated much of the world with his Kon-Tiki Expedition in 1947, his questions as to whether the Polynesians came from the East or the West, and his other expeditions. The Heyerdahl Institute is continuing Heyerdahl's work by promoting and developing the research and development ideals that defined his manner of working. An example of this is to establish a Thor Heyerdahl professorship at a Norwegian university. UMB has been selected for this purpose. At UMB, Noragric has been selected to house the professor, who will report to the Head of Noragric.

The empirical focus of the Professorship is the interface of environment and development processes. Special reference is given to people's command over safe food and water, which is fundamental to health and human development and recognized as an integral component of secure and sustainable livelihoods. The position will be used to strengthen UMB's programmes on health, environment and development. The Thor Heyerdahl Professor is expected to play a leadership role in two ways: First to build an academic platform for health, environment and development programmes by developing interdisciplinary and problem-oriented approaches and forging meaningful scientific collaboration between different departments at UMB and with other concerned national and international institutions. Second, to develop and further refine the methodological and theoretical means of interdisciplinarity for application to the field of holistic research in general. It is expected that The Thor Heyerdahl Professor will publish in both fields.

One important function for the Thor Heyerdahl professor will be to work closely with the UMB's "Health and Development" programme, which was launched in 2006. This program includes projects on post-disaster reconstruction with a focus on water quality and sanitation and hygienic practices in Pakistan, as well as projects on food safety including both policy considerations and residual pesticides. These projects seek to integrate the social, technological and institutional dimensions of problems and alternative solutions from

perspectives of development and environmental change. The programme will expand in the future to cover more issues and geographic areas. This will be preceded, however, by a phase of review of the ongoing projects, strengthening of the interdisciplinary academic platform and identification and prioritisation of research problems in partner countries. The Thor Heyerdahl professor will also be expected to teach and develop new courses.

Qualifications

A doctoral degree in fields relevant to health, environment and development is a minimum requirement. Applicants should have proven scientific competence in interdisciplinary approaches to environment-development relations with reference to health, livelihoods and human development. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in leading and managing international interdisciplinary research programmes and working in multicultural environments, and in graduate level teaching and supervision of Master's and PhD students. A high level of proficiency in English is required, as it is the working language of the Department and the medium of instruction in all undergraduate and graduate courses offered by it. Working knowledge of other languages, including Norwegian, is an advantage, but not a requirement. The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) is an equal opportunity employer. Among applicants with similar qualifications, women will be given preference. The applicant should be able and willing to do considerable international travels.

Each applicant will be evaluated for professor level competence and leadership qualities based on his/her scientific publications and the record of performance as a research leader, project manager and team builder.

The Position

The position is offered for four years and the selected candidate will be considered for appointment at an appropriate point on the salary scale for professors, which ranges from NOK 522.500 to 919.800 (Norwegian government salary scale 70-92) depending on qualifications.

Application

Written application in five copies, containing a letter explaining the applicant's motivation for seeking this position and stating his/her special and relevant qualifications, a detailed and up-to-date CV, complete list of publications, and four copies of the applicant's five most important publications should be sent to:

Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric), P.O.Box 5003, N-1432 Ås, Norway, quoting Reference no 07/291. The closing date for applications is xx.

For further information about the vacancy please contact: Head of Department Ruth Haug (+47 64 965336) or Head of Research N. Shanmugaratnam (+47 64 965508). For information about UMB and Noragric, please visit: http://www.umb.no/noragric