

 <p>MARIE CURIE ACTIONS</p>	<p>10 fully funded PhD positions in the field of visitor management in protected and recreational areas are offered in the new EU HORIZON-MSCA-Doctoral Network <i>VIMAS</i></p>	 <p>Visitor monitoring and managementⁱⁿ protected and recreational areas</p>
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Visitor monitoring and management in protected and recreational areas: new challenges, novel solutions for the Anthropocene - VIMAS

VIMAS' primary objective is to develop more efficient governance of nature areas for tourism and recreation, in the best way possible for biodiversity, people's quality of life and business development. This will be achieved through research about smarter monitoring methods, improved visitor management and more inclusive governance. Recreation in the outdoors has transformed in several ways; besides the increase in volume of visitors, the behaviors of visitors has diversified; visitors participate in a wider set of activities, visit more remote places, take more diversified trips in nature, have different motivations for visitation as well as levels of experience and skills. New monitoring and management tools for the Anthropocene must address the cumulative impacts from increased tourism and recreation while striking a balance with ethics, privacy, and equal opportunities.

The strategic objectives of *VIMAS* are:

- Train the next generation of multidisciplinary scientists that will develop skills to secure sustainable, knowledge-based visitor management through recruitment of 10 international Doctoral Candidates (DCs) to be assigned to a specific PhD curriculum, to be monitored and supervised in their career development by the multidisciplinary expertise network of the *VIMAS* consortium.
- Strengthen European geo-digital businesses, public administration, and academia with a cohort of talented researchers with the qualities to become leading European professionals in visitor management and planning.

The *VIMAS* consortium consists of seven full partners (Beneficiaries) in six North-European countries, supported with 14 partners from business, public management and applied research from Europe and North America. Information about the *VIMAS* Doctoral Network can be found at <https://www.nmbu.no/en/research/projects/vimas>

PhD projects

PhD 1 Application of Mobile Big Data / Social Media Data to monitor recreational visits to nature

Location: Copenhagen University, Denmark

Main Supervisor: Prof. Hans Skov-Pedersen; Email: hsp@ign.ku.dk

PhD 2 Identifying typologies of nature visitors and destinations using Mobile Big Data

Location: Helsinki University, Finland

Main Supervisor: Prof. Tuuli Toivonen; Email: tuuli.toivonen@helsinki.fi

PhD 3 Advancing recreational monitoring and management by combining plural knowledge systems and diverse values through PPGIS for resilient visitor management in times of changes

Location: Copenhagen University, Denmark

Main Supervisor: Ass. Prof. Anton Stahl Olafsson; Email: asol@ign.ku.dk

PhD 4 The role of reliable customer insights in nature-based service/tourism business

Location: Eastern Finland University, Joensuu, Finland

Main Supervisor: Ass. Prof. Henna Konu; Email: henna.konu@uef.fi

PhD 5 Challenges and solutions of financing public goods related to outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism

Location: Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Latvia

Main Supervisor: Prof. Agita Livina; Email: agita.livina@va.lv

PhD 6 When intentions change, does nature benefit? Assessing the potential for long term value and behavioral change among visitors to nature areas

Location: Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway

Main Supervisor: Prof. Øystein Aas; Email: oystein.aas@nmbu.no

PhD 7 Role of natural soundscapes and dark skies experiences in visitor experience in nature

Location: Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway

Main Supervisors: Prof. Øystein Aas and Dr. Rose Keller; Email: rose.keller@nina.no or oystein.aas@nmbu.no

PhD 8 Social inclusion, access, and equal opportunities in visitor management

Location: University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland

Main Supervisor: Prof. Anna Dóra Sæþórsdóttir; Email: annadora@hi.is

PhD 9 Collaborative governance solutions and management regimes through improved visitor monitoring

Location: Mid-Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden

Main Supervisor: Prof. Peter Fredman; Email: peter.fredman@miun.se

PhD 10 Indicators of recreational values in the landscape – development, implementation, and evaluation

Location: Mid-Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden

Main Supervisor: Prof. Peter Fredman; Email: peter.fredman@miun.se

Further details of all positions (eligibility criteria, description of PhD projects, application procedure, benefits, etc.) can be found at <https://www.nmbu.no/en/research/projects/vimas>. Interested applicants can also contact the Main Supervisor of the PhD project of interest.

We aim to start all PhD positions the latest by June, 2024. These are particularly attractive PhD positions with regard to salary terms and benefits. The Call for recruitment is open to Doctoral Candidates (DC) of any nationality, age and gender that meet the following eligibility rules at the date of the Call deadline:

Eligibility criteria

1. Essential criteria

- applicants must be doctoral candidates, i.e., not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment.
- Applicants must hold a relevant Master degree or equivalent (EQF 7) at the time of the application. The educational background should be in a subject relevant to each PhD project respectively as well as the overall scope of the VIMAS project.
- Applicants that are not native English speakers must provide proof of their English language proficiency as established through an internationally recognized qualification.
- Mobility rule: researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g., work, studies) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.

2. Preferred criteria

- Work experiences from visitor management in nature areas
- Good collaboration skills
- Interest to work in multi-disciplinary, international teams

What we offer

- VIMAS fellows will be employed according to the rules for doctoral candidates in MSCA-DNs and the regulations of each host institution.
- The financial package will include monthly researcher allowances, a mobility allowance, and a family allowance (if applicable).
- Doctoral candidates will be given an employment contract for 36 months¹ by their host institution and will be entitled to full employee benefits and inclusion in social security schemes of the host country.

How to apply

Applications should be submitted through the online application platforms at each recruiting university (announcements and links will be available at <https://www.nmbu.no/en/research/projects/vimas>) when the positions are formally announced. Note that different recruitment procedures and deadlines may apply among the host universities.



Funded by European Union

¹ PhD candidates with Swedish and Finnish host institutions will enter a four-year PhD program with an additional 12 months of funding from the employing university.