

Deliberation: Associate Professor/ Professor in Nature-based tourism

Background

Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management (MINA) at Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) invites applicants for a permanent position as associate professor/professor in Nature-based tourism.

The nature-based tourism research group at MINA-NMBU is closely linked with the two-year (120 ECTS) master program in nature-based tourism. Our vision is to be the leading research and teaching environment in nature-based tourism in the Nordic region, and to maintain high international standards in teaching and research.

The research group in nature-based tourism consists of one full-time associate professor, two part-time professors, and four PhD candidates. To strengthen both research and teaching capacities, MINA now seeks applicants for a position as associate professor or professor in nature-based tourism.

Research: Three main directions for future research have been identified by the group. These are more thematic than disciplinary oriented, drawing on major research traditions within nature-based tourism: i) The nature-based tourism sector: Demand and supply perspectives, ii) Wildlife tourism, iii) Tourism in protected areas.

Several related, and partly overlapping topics, such as *adventure tourism*, *eco-tourism* and *sustainable tourism* are central to the nature-based tourism study field which also interacts with several other *natural resource users*. Taking an applied social science approach to nature-based tourism, the group regularly cooperates with scholars in ecology, forestry, economics both within and outside the faculty.

The group is also responsible for the research project BIOTOUR (From place-based natural resources to value-added experiences: Tourism in the new bio-economy) supported by the Norwegian Research Council. See <https://www.nmbu.no/biotour>

Study program: The master program has a holistic perspective on nature-based tourism based on the landscape, the local communities and the principles of sustainable development. The curriculum focuses on Nordic conditions. What makes the program at NMBU unique is the integrated perspective on nature-based tourism, where students gain interdisciplinary expertise in natural resources management, entrepreneurship, tourism, planning and community development. There is close collaboration with other faculties at NMBU, especially School of Economics and Business; and Landscape and Society. Each year around 15 master students are admitted to the program. The candidates work to a large degree in the intersection between tourism, outdoor recreation and natural resource management in public agencies, governmental authorities, private firms, DMMOs, NGOs, academia or start their own business. See more about the program at <https://www.nmbu.no/reiseliv>

The Faculty will hire a person with solid competence in nature-based tourism. The person will be responsible for teaching the courses *REIS300 Nature-based tourism* (<https://www.nmbu.no/course/REIS300>), and *REIS310 Social Science Research Methods in Nature-Based Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resource Management* (<https://www.nmbu.no/course/REIS310>), and expected to contribute in other courses.

In the case of new hires, teaching qualifications and pedagogical abilities will be emphasized. We are looking for a person with teaching competence in nature-based tourism and tourism methods.

MINA wants to increase its portfolio of externally funded projects and we are looking for a person who will strengthen the opportunities for external research funding.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision of master's and PhD students, and a good background in tourism research methods is desirable.

Most courses in the master program is taught in Norwegian and the program has a Nordic profile, therefore Norwegian or another Scandinavian language is a requirement for this position.

Based on the desired expertise discussed above, the person will have the following work tasks:

- Conduct research in nature-based tourism, including collaboration with related fields such as natural resource management and planning
- Teach courses at the master program in nature-based tourism (and possibly also related fields)
- Supervise MSc and PhD students
- Participate in the development of the master program
- Participate in administrative duties

Professional qualification requirements

The candidate must have a PhD in nature-based tourism, outdoor recreation management, natural resources management or a related field, and have an academic background that corresponds with what is mentioned under work tasks. Motivation for both teaching and research must be formulated in the application. Applicants will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Requirements:

- A strong record of research in nature-based tourism and related subjects
- An interdisciplinary profile including relevant fields such as natural resource management, outdoor recreation and tourism development
- Good skills and high capabilities in teaching and supervision
- Good skills in English and in a Scandinavian language

The following experiences and skills will be emphasized:

- Quality, relevance and volume of scientific publications
- Pedagogical and administrative competence
- Ability to initiate, acquire and complete research projects
- International collaboration and experience
- Ambitions to develop nature-based tourism as a field of study and research

- Knowledge of the actors in the Nordic nature-based tourism sector

Applicants will also be evaluated according to the applicant's goals with his / her future research and teaching at MINA

Applicants without formal competence in pedagogy undertake to complete NMBU's course in university pedagogy within 2 years.

Personal characteristics important for the position are:

- High working capacity and motivation for cooperation with research groups at the faculty
- Good communicative skills, including the ability to establish contacts and develop networks within academia and industry
- Ability to create a welcoming and productive working environment for colleagues and students