

Nansen Professorship in Arctic Studies

A Visiting Professorship in Arctic studies at the University of Akureyri, Iceland

The University of Akureyri (Háskólinn á Akureyri) was founded in 1987 and is located in the capital of North Iceland, Akureyri. The University is divided into three Schools: School of Business and Science, School of Humanities and Social Sciences and School of Health Sciences, with a total of 1850 students and 170 permanent staff members. The University has a well-established system for flexible studies via distance and on-line learning and through a network of learning centers located throughout Iceland. The University is especially prominent in research areas such as biotechnical-, marine- and social sciences and has for many years been active in research and education in the Arctic, including polar law, resource management in fisheries and research on global climate change.

Akureyri is the location of various Arctic institutions and initiatives such as the Stefansson Arctic Institute; the Polar Law Institute; Secretariats of the Arctic Council Working Groups PAME (Protection of Arctic Marine Environment) and CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna); the Northern Research Forum; the University of Akureyri Research Centre; and the Arctic Cooperation Network.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Iceland and Norway signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Akureyri, Iceland, which includes several aspects of cooperation in the field of Arctic scientific research, including the Nansen Professorship in Arctic Studies at the University of Akureyri. In tribute to the famous Norwegian polar scientist and humanist - Fridtjof Nansen - the Professorship is referred to as the Nansen Professorship in Arctic Studies. The position is awarded each year for a twelve-month period to a scientist working on issues that bear on the legal, economic, social and natural circumstances in the Arctic.

For the 2016/2017 scholarship the selection committee seeks a candidate interested in contributing a year to focus their research effort on political and social issues in the Arctic; with a special emphasis on issues shared by Norway and Iceland. Applications from candidates within other fields will though also be accepted.

A successful candidate should currently hold an academic position (assistant, associate or full professor) or a research position at a research institute which focuses on the Arctic. The candidate must have a strong academic background and be experienced in working across disciplines with complex human-environmental-social issues. The candidate also needs to have strong communicative and social/interpersonal skills. Research experience relating to the Arctic and a track record of participation in international research networks is required.

Primary responsibilities will be the following:

(I) To contribute to research, teaching and further development of relevant programs at the University of Akureyri, (II) to work closely with other researchers in furthering the northern research and teaching milieu at the University of Akureyri and contribute to the development of the University of the Arctic, (III) to give public lectures on Arctic issues in local, national and international fora and to participate in the contemporary debate on changes in the Arctic.

The scholarship awards salaries, housing and relocation grant as well as a specific travel fund to facilitate the candidate's participation in relevant domestic and international networks and conferences. The housing and relocation grant is available for candidates with permanent residence outside Akureyri. The total grant is up to € 150.000 – For further information on how the grant is split between salaries and other costs please send your questions directly to nansen@unak.is.

The application deadline is March 14th, 2016. Formal period of employment starts on September 1, 2016; exact timing is subject to negotiations. Applicants can apply for a full academic year or one semester, with priority given to candidates that apply for a full academic year.

Applications should be sent in digital form to nansen@unak.is. There is no standard form used for the application but attached should be a detailed account of education and experience, research and teaching activities.

The application should also include a detailed proposal for research activities during the period, a dissemination plan as well as other planned academic activities (field work, laboratory work or surveys, as an example).

Applicants should submit what they consider to be their foremost academic publications (up to ten publications). This can be achieved either by sending the publication documents attached to the application, or through a link to where they can be accessed in digital form. Applications and relevant documentation that are not submitted digitally should be sent to the office of the Rector of the University of Akureyri, Sólborg v/ Norðurslóð, 600 Akureyri, Iceland.

All applications will be answered when a decision concerning the successful candidate has been made. Insufficient applications will not be considered.

Enquiries concerning the post should be sent to nansen@unak.is.