

**PhD fellowship in Vector-borne disease modelling at the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences**  
**Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences**  
**University of Copenhagen**

We are offering a PhD fellowship in Vector-borne disease modelling, commencing 1 February 2023 or as soon as possible hereafter.

**Our group and research**

The PhD-student will be part of the Parasites and the Environment group, where the successful applicant will join a diverse and collaborative group on a daily basis. The group apply an interdisciplinary, One Health approach to the study of human and animal parasites and their vectors, to study how these are affected by anthropogenic environmental changes, biodiversity loss and habitat disruption. We use this knowledge to inform predictions about emerging patterns of parasitic and vector borne diseases of humans and animals in order to enhance preparedness. The group is embedded within the Section of Parasitology and Aquatic Pathobiology, with links to other sections working with animal and zoonotic diseases, epidemiology and welfare. Apart from Parasites and the Environment group, the section also contains a Veterinary Parasitology group, a Parasite Immunology and Gut Health group, and an Aquatic Pathobiology Lab. The group is international in nature, and the daily working language is English. For more information about the the group our research:

[https://ivh.ku.dk/english/research/about\\_parasitology\\_and\\_aquatic\\_diseases/paraenvi-new/](https://ivh.ku.dk/english/research/about_parasitology_and_aquatic_diseases/paraenvi-new/)

**Project description: *PhD in vector-borne disease modelling***

The PhD project will be part of a large EU Horizon2020 RIA project - A Cross-Disciplinary Alliance to Identify, PREDict and prePARE for Emerging Vector-Borne Diseases (PREPARE4VBD:

<https://prepare4vbd.eu/>). PREPARE4VBD is a multi-disciplinary consortium that brings together 10 university and ministerial partners from 5 African and 3 European countries, to address changing global patterns of zoonotic tick- mosquito and snail-borne diseases. The PhD project will explore the relative impact of climate change on vector and pathogen distributions and densities, past and future, and develop state-of-art predictive modelling framework based on integrating statistical and mathematical models to predict the impacts of climate change on future vector-borne disease patterns. Focus will be on snail-borne diseases such as fascioliasis, but with the potential for extending and adapting the modelling framework to other PREPARE4VBD target diseases. The work will done in collaboration with GLOBE Institute and other partners in of the EU project PREPARE4VBD. Visits to these or other collaborating labs will be part of the project.

**Principal supervisor** is Associate Professor Anna-Sofie Stensgaard, Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. [asstensgaard@sund.ku.dk](mailto:asstensgaard@sund.ku.dk), Direct Phone: +45 35 33 65 88

**Start:** 1 February 2023

**Duration:** 3 years as a PhD student

**Job description**

Your key tasks as a PhD student at SUND are:

- Carrying through an independent research project under supervision.

- Completing PhD courses or other equivalent training corresponding to approximately 30 ECTS points.
- Participating in active research environments including a stay at another research team.
- Obtaining experience with teaching or other types of dissemination related to your PhD project
- Teaching and disseminating your knowledge.
- Writing a PhD thesis on the grounds of your project, including peer-reviewed scientific articles based on the research carried out during the PhD.

## **Key criteria for the assessment of applicants**

Applicants must have qualifications corresponding to a master's degree related to the subject area of the project, e.g. a MSc in climate change, biology or parasitology (with a specialization in biostatistics, epidemiology or modelling). Please note that your master's degree must be equivalent to a Danish master's degree (two years).

Other important criteria are:

- Fluency in written and spoken English (French would also be an asset).
- Experience with vector-borne disease modelling
- Experience with programming/scripting in R, Python or SQL.
- Other professional qualifications relevant to the project
- Relevant work experience.
- A curious mind-set with a strong interest in climate change science and global health.
- Good collaborative skills and an interest in working with highly international research environment.

As a PhD within the PREPARE4VBD project you will also be expected to:

- Participating in activities of the research group and the PREPARE4VBD project such as meetings, conferences and project trips.
- Contribute to overall project aims and deliverables by actively participating and collaborating with the PREPARE4VBD Coordinating Team and other PREPARE4VBD fellows and partners.
- Communicate your own as well as other project-related scientific activity to a broad audience, for example through outreach activities, public lectures, contributions to project newsletters and web-site, podcasts, and social media.
- Comply with the highest standards of research integrity, as set out in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

## **Place of employment**

The place of employment is at the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. We offer creative and stimulating working conditions in dynamic and international research environment. Our research facilities include modern laboratories and state-of-art equipment.

## Terms of employment

The average weekly working hours are 37 hours per week.

The position is a fixed-term position limited to a period of 3 years. The start date is 1 of February 2023 (or as soon as possible thereafter).

The employment is conditioned upon the applicant's successful enrolment as a PhD student at the Graduate School at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. This requires submission and acceptance of an application for the specific project formulated by the applicant. The PhD study must be completed in accordance with The Ministerial Order on the PhD programme (2013) and the Faculty's rules on achieving the degree. Salary, pension and terms of employment are in accordance with the agreement between the Ministry of Taxation and The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations on Academics in the State. Depending on seniority, the monthly salary starts at approximately 27,800 DKK/Roughly 3,700 EUR (October 2021 level) plus pension.

## Questions

For specific information about the PhD fellowship, please contact the principal supervisor.

General information about PhD studies at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences is available at the Graduate School's website: <https://healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/guidelines/>

## Application procedure

Your application must be submitted electronically by clicking 'Apply now' below. The application must include the following documents in PDF format:

1. Motivated letter of application (max. one page)
2. CV incl. education, experience, language skills and other skills relevant for the position
3. Certified copy of original Master of Science diploma and transcript of records in the original language, including an authorized English translation if issued in other language than English or Danish. If not completed, a certified/signed copy of a recent transcript of records or a written statement from the institution or supervisor is accepted. As a prerequisite for a PhD fellowship employment, your master's degree must be equivalent to a Danish master's degree. We encourage you to read more in the assessment database: <https://ufm.dk/en/education/recognition-and-transparency/find-assessments/assessment-database>. Please note that we might ask you to obtain an assessment of your education performed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science
4. Publication list (if possible)

## Application deadline: 30 October 2022, 23.59pm CET

We reserve the right not to consider material received after the deadline, and not to consider applications that do not live up to the abovementioned requirements.

## The further process

After the expiry of the deadline for applications, the authorized recruitment manager selects applicants for assessment on the advice of the hiring committee. All applicants are then immediately notified whether their application has been passed for assessment by an unbiased assessor.

The assessor makes a non-prioritized assessment of the academic qualifications and experience with respect to the above-mentioned area of research, techniques, skills and other requirements listed in the advertisement. Once the assessment work has been completed each applicant has the opportunity to comment on the part of the assessment that relates to the applicant him/herself.

You find information about the recruitment process at:  
<http://employment.ku.dk/faculty/recruitment-process/>

The applicants will be assessed according to the Ministerial Order no. 242 of 13 March 2012 on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Universities.

*The University of Copenhagen wish to reflect the diversity of society and encourage all qualified candidates to apply regardless of personal background.*



**Project Coordinator:**

Anna-Sofie Stensgaard - University of Copenhagen (UCPH)

**Project Manager:**

Katrine Mohr - University of Copenhagen (UCPH)

**Contact:**

[info @ prepare4vbd.eu](mailto:info@prepare4vbd.eu)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000365