



The University of Oslo is Norway's oldest and highest ranked educational and research institution, with 28 000 students and 7000 employees. With its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally recognised research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

The Museum of Cultural History at the University of Oslo is one of Norway's largest museums of cultural history and, in addition to being a museum, it is a university department equal in status to UiO's faculties. It houses Norway's largest archaeological collection of artefacts from pre-history and the Middle Ages, including the Viking ships at Bygdøy, a considerable collection of medieval ecclesiastical art, a collection of antiques from the Mediterranean region and an archive of runic inscriptions. Furthermore, the museum possesses a comprehensive ethnographic collection of artefacts from all continents, as well as Norway's by far largest collection of historic coinage.

Research conservator - the Saving Oseberg project

Job description

The Museum of Cultural History (KHM) invites applications for the position as research conservator (position code 1108) in [the research project Saving Oseberg](#), Phase II "From Lab to Pilot" (temporary position until December 31st, 2019).

The museum houses the extensive and highly valued Oseberg collection, which represents one of the most comprehensive collections of Viking Age wooden objects in the world. Many of these wooden artefacts are severely threatened by a slow but on-going deterioration process caused by a conservation treatment (alum treatment) applied over one hundred years ago. In addition, the artefacts are restored to such a degree, that undoing or removing these would irreversibly damage the artefacts. In order to develop a preservation strategy for these highly complex and degraded artefacts, the museum launched the research project Saving Oseberg phase I, which ended December 31st 2016.

Phase II of the Saving Oseberg project continues to develop successful strategies, and is organized in two research groups. Both groups are physically located in facilities nearby the Viking Ship Museum at Bygdøy (with the exception of external partners in England and Italy). The first group applies and compares different impregnation methods, addressing three main problems: high acidity, presence of harmful metal ions and consolidation of the fragile wood. This work focusses on the development of a testing protocol, which involves documentation, testing a selection of impregnation agents on the original material, and evaluation of results. Relevant, novel evaluation techniques will have to be developed in cases where no standard procedures exist. Investigations on wood polymer degradation are also a part of this group. The second group investigates chemical variation of inorganic compounds in the wood and improvement of consolidants developed in Phase I. We will continue with a focus on developing a bio-inspired material chemically functionalized in a way which allows it to both consolidate and reduce acidity. The two research groups cooperate closely.

More about the position

The responsibilities of this position are in particular connected to group 1, testing and evaluation of materials and methods. Foremost, it follows up on work already underway on the reconservation of test fragments of original alum-treated material.

Responsibilities also include contributing to the design and implementation of an object survey of the collection, planned to take place after reconservation pilot studies are completed. These tasks will be performed in close cooperation with the coordinator of group 1 as well as with the rest of the project team, partners and network.

The successful applicant will be a part of a cross-disciplinary group of conservators, conservation scientists and chemists.

It is expected that the applicant will participate in public engagement activities, conferences and contribute to the general organization of project meetings and seminars.

Qualification requirements

- applicants must hold a Master's degree (120 ECTS) or equivalent in object conservation, minimum grade B
- documented research experience in the form of at least one major or two minor scientific publications
- experience with conservation of archaeological wood (e.g. knowledge about freeze drying, calculation density, maximum moisture content, etc.)
- fluent oral and written communication skills in English

Desired skills

- the working language is English, but knowledge of Norwegian, Danish or Swedish is an advantage
- previous participation in research related to archaeological wood

Personal skills

- motivation to learn about the different perspectives brought into the project; chemists, conservators/conservation scientists, as well as imaging experts/photographers
- systematic approach and eagerness to work both independently and in a team
- good collaboration skills and ability to form a part of a cross-disciplinary academic community

We offer

- salary NOK 474.700 - 537.700 per annum depending on qualifications in a position as Researcher (position code 1108)
- a friendly and professionally stimulating working environment

- attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement, in addition to Oslo's attractive environment with its rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities

How to apply

The application must include

- cover letter (statement of motivation, research interests and a brief description of previous relevant experience)
- CV (summarizing education, positions and other qualifying activity)
- copies of educational certificates (academic transcripts only)
- a list of publications and academic works

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, please follow the link "apply for this job". Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University's grading system. Please note that all documents should be in English or a Scandinavian language.

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview, and will be requested a list of reference persons.

Formal regulations

According to the Norwegian Freedom and Information Act (Offentleglova) information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

The University of Oslo has an [agreement](#) for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results etc.

The University of Oslo aims to achieve a balanced gender composition in the workforce and to recruit people with ethnic minority backgrounds.

Contact information

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