



NTNU

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

The Department of Mental Health, NTNU, has a vacancy for a postdoctoral fellow.

The postdoctoral fellowship position is a temporary position (2 years) where the main goal is to qualify for work in academic positions and to deliver a successful project.

The successful candidate will join the [ULTPEN](#) research team to work on the project: 'Indefinite preventive detention: The implementation and impact of the ULTimate PENalty in Norway,' funded by the Norwegian Research Council. They will work closely together with the principal investigator of ULTPEN, Dr Catherine Appleton, and a small interdisciplinary research team at the Department of Mental Health. The position is fulltime, and the period of appointment runs for two years, preferably starting August/September 2022. The research project is carried out in collaboration with the University College of Norwegian Correctional Service (KRUS) and with the Centre for Research and Education in Security, Prisons and Forensic Psychiatry at St. Olavs University Hospital.

The main aim of the ULTPEN project is to address three key research questions to provide the first comprehensive in-depth assessment of the use and impact of indefinite preventive detention (forvaring):

1. What is the ultimate penalty in Norwegian law? (Work package 1)
2. Who is sentenced to serve the ultimate penalty in Norway? (Work package 2)
3. What is it like to serve the ultimate penalty in Norway? (Work package 3)

The successful candidate's primary role will be to take a lead role on work package 3, in close collaboration with the rest of the research team and the Norwegian Correctional Services. The candidate's main task will be to carry out face-to-face life story research interviews with prisoners serving indefinite preventive detention in Norway. Prisoners at all different stages of their sentence will be included in the study. The main focus will be to invite participants to "tell their story" in their own words. Prisoners will also be asked specifically to reflect on the conditions of their confinement, their strategies for coping with an indeterminate sentence, their daily routine, their relationships inside and outside of prison, the role of prison staff and future expectations.

The postholder will be expected to spend considerable time during the first year undertaking fieldwork interviews at Ullersmo Prison, where the majority of forvaring prisoners are currently detained. The successful candidate will therefore engage closely with the Norwegian Correctional Services and the prison system, and with relevant national and international research communities. The candidate is expected to assist with qualitative data analysis and engage with the growing scholarship on indefinite detention, prisoner perspectives, Scandinavian penal exceptionalism, and ultimate penalties. They will also be encouraged to develop their own research interests as part of this project, and author at least two articles for publication in leading peer-reviewed international academic journals with other members of the research team.

The candidate will work closely with the core project team, take part in group research activities, such as seminars and workshops and other dissemination activities as per the project plan, contribute to the other work packages where necessary and assist the PI (Principal Investigator) in the overall administration and organization of the project. The core project team consists of the Principal Investigator, Dr. Catherine Appleton, Dr. Hilde Dahl, Professor Richard Whittington, and Dr. Berit Johnsen (KRUS). The candidate will get the chance to develop their international network and to engage with key scholars in this field from around the world, who are part of the project's Advisory Board.



Duties of the position

- Organise, coordinate, and carry out face-to-face life story interviews with prisoners serving indefinite preventive detention (forvaring) in Norway.
- Assist in the transcription and translation of life-story interviews (from Norwegian to English)
- Data management and qualitative data analysis.
- Publish peer-reviewed articles based on the data collected in leading international journals.
- Present research findings at conferences, workshops, nationally and internationally.
- Participate in the activities of the research team and contribute to project deliverables.
- Participate in the development, design, and submission of new applications for external funding.

Required selection criteria

- A Norwegian doctoral degree or corresponding foreign doctoral degree recognized as equivalent to a Norwegian PhD in a relevant field (Criminology, Law, Sociology, Psychology, or other relevant social science background). Candidates who are in the final stages of their PhD- project will be assessed but need to provide documentation of completed PhD degree before starting the position.
- A relevant background in Criminology, Law, Sociology, Psychology, or other relevant social science background.
- Strong methodological competence in using qualitative research methods.
- Ability to go alone into a prison environment and establish strong collaborative relations with staff as gatekeepers and prisoners.
- An excellent command of both Norwegian and English languages, written and spoken.
- Excellent written and oral presentation skills.

Preferred selection criteria

- Demonstrated knowledge of, and experience with carrying out qualitative research interviews and data analysis.
- Experience of using quantitative methods.
- Knowledge and experience of working with vulnerable groups, prison institutions and the prison system, both nationally and internationally.
- Knowledge and understanding of research ethics processes in the fields covered by ULTPEN.

The appointment is to be made in accordance with the regulations in force concerning State Employees and Civil Servants and national guidelines for appointment as PhD, postdoctoral fellow and/or research assistant.

Personal characteristics

- Able to work independently and in a professional and structured way.
- A positive work attitude with good collaboration and communication skills.
- A willingness and commitment to work in a multidisciplinary team, to learn new skills and to contribute to a good working environment.
- Able to demonstrate empathy and a realistic but positive attitude to offenders and offending behaviour.



NTNU

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

About the application

The Cover letter, CV and supporting documentation that will be used as the basis for the assessment must be in English. Publications and other scientific work must follow the application. Please note that applications are only evaluated based on the information available on the application deadline. You should ensure that your application shows clearly how your skills and experience meet the criteria which are set out above.

The application must include:

- CV, cover letter, certificates, and diplomas.
- Transcripts and diplomas for bachelor's-, master's- and PhD degrees.
- Academic works - published or unpublished - that you would like to be considered in the assessment (up to 4 items).
- Name and address of three referees.

If all, or parts, of a candidate's education has been taken abroad, we ask that they attach documentation of the scope and quality of their entire education. Description of the documentation required can be found [here](#) If the candidate already has a statement from NOKUT, please attach this as well.

As an employee at NTNU, you must always adhere to the changes that the development in the subject entails and the organizational changes that are adopted.

It is a prerequisite you can be accessible to the institution on a daily basis.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact

Dr Catherine Appleton, email catherine.a.appleton@ntnu.no.

If you have any questions about the recruitment process, please contact

Senior Executive Officer HR Fiona Druett, e-mail: fiona.druett@ntnu.no

Application deadline is 23.03.2022 and relevant applicants will be contacted for a digital interview planned to be carried out in the period April 25-29.