



PhD Scholarship in Education

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU – Norway) in collaboration with Bahir Dar University – BDU (Ethiopia) invites academic staff from BDU and University of Juba (UJ), South Sudan, to apply for a PhD scholarship within the framework of the NORHED funded project on "**Advancing Quality in Education in the Primary and Lower Secondary Schools in Ethiopia and South Sudan**". The project is a five years project from August 2016 to August 2021, led by BDU with grant funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) NORHED Programme. The project aims to build institutional capacity of BDU and UJ to improve the quality of Science and Mathematics education in primary and lower secondary schools and it has three components: Education, Research, and Institutional Capacity Building. As part of the research component, there is a plan to recruit **four** PhD candidates on competition basis (2 from BDU staff and 2 from UJ staff) who will focus their studies on the following issue.

Focus area of the PhD project

National learning assessment results in Ethiopia show that mathematics performance is among the lowest of all the school subjects. Recent national learning assessment results indicate that 56.30% of grade 4 and 61.30 of grade 8 students performed below basic level. Furthermore, 85.3% of grade 10 students' mathematics score was found to be below 50%. This necessitates conducting further investigation to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics. Hence, proposals pertaining to the improvement of classroom mathematics teaching and learning practices at primary and lower secondary schools are encouraged. Such proposals could be targeted at studies with the aim of developing mathematics teacher education and/or further education of mathematics teachers.

It can include, but are not limited to: Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL), Experimenting and discovering, problem-based mathematics instruction, Realistic Mathematics Education (RME), the effective use of manipulatives (virtual or concrete), language and mathematics, technology in mathematics education, digital platforms for mathematics education research, Quantitative and experimental methods, gender in mathematics education, high-leverage



mathematics and the use of rehearsals in mathematics teacher education, mathematical knowledge for teaching, in particular content knowledge special for mathematics teachers, digital platforms for mathematics education research, history of mathematics education, teacher knowledge, especially, the Pedagogical Content knowledge (PCK), comparative studies, mathematics teachers professional development. Also topics related to the teaching and learning of specific topics: geometrical thinking, number sense, algebraic thinking, fractions, algebra, data and probability.

How to apply: Interested applicants should submit applications by e-mail to the Project Coordinator at BDU: Dr. Dawit Asrat Getahun, Director of the Institute of Pedagogical and Educational Research; Email: dawitas@yahoo.com or dawit.asrat.getahun@gmail.com

The application should include:

- 1) A brief statement of interest or cover letter not more than two pages describing your motivation to apply
- 2) a PhD research proposal of no more than ten pages (page format A4 with 2.5 cm margins, single spacing and Times New Roman 12-point font) outlining the thematic focus and specifying how it relates to the overall project, research questions or hypothesis, methodological and theoretical focus, a timeframe of activities and a list of expected outputs,
- 3) A detailed curriculum vitae (CV),
- 4) Copies of masters degree certificates and academic transcripts
- 5) Publications, if any. It is often difficult to judge the applicant's contribution to publications with multiple authors; hence a short description of the applicant's contribution must be included and
- 6) Contact information of two referees (preferably one from a previous supervisor) with phone numbers and e-mail addresses

Eligibility requirements, qualifications and experience: The applicant should be an employee of BDU (Ethiopia) or University of Juba (South Sudan))

Applicants must have a strong academic background with at least five-year Masters Degree (including undergrad degree studies) within a suitable qualification which could provide a basis for successfully completing a doctorate, preferably having a background in relevant education fields. Both the grade for the Master's thesis and the weighted average grade of the Master's degree must individually be equivalent to or better than a B grade. Experience with teaching (minimum of 2 years) and conducting research in teacher education



and strong analytical and writing skills (any peer-reviewed publications) will be considered a major advantage. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Language skills: To be qualified the applicant should also have very good English skills both oral and in writing.

Age limits: Not more than **45 years** at the time of application

PhD Scholarship and study conditions: The successful candidate will have PhD scholarship for a period of three years and will be expected to register at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Norway. The student will be expected to follow the registration procedures at NTNU. The student will be expected to spend a total of 14 months at NTNU and the rest of the PhD study period will be spent at their home University. The monthly stipend will be **NOK 15200** while in Norway and **NOK 10670** each year for the period spent in Ethiopia. The successful candidate will become part of an organized research team on the BDU-NOHERD Project and will be expected to write a paper based thesis which will contribute to the project's publication targets. Thus, the candidate should be able to work independently but also as part of the project team. Research and travel expenses to and from Norway will be covered by the project.

The selection process: Applications will be evaluated by the Project Team. The final decision will be made by the potential supervisors at NTNU and BDU based on recommendations from the project team. When assessing the applications, emphasis will be put on: 1) The quality of the project proposal, 2) The proposal's alignment with the project goals, and 3) the Masters Study grades. The successful applicant must qualify for formal admission as a PhD student at NTNU. See <http://www.ntnu.edu/studies/phprolus> for information about PhD studies at NTNU.

Expected start date: The planned starting date is August **2018**. The student will be expected to refine the research proposal at NTNU, review literature, participate in seminars and possibly take some methodological courses.

Application deadline: All application materials (including scanned copies of academic documents) must be received by **20, February 2018** until 11 o'clock Ethiopian time.

Further information is available by contacting Jørund Aasetre, e-mail: jorund.aasetre@ntnu.no / phone: [+47 93211139](tel:+4793211139) or Charlotte N. Jjunju charlotte.jjunju@ntnu.no at the Department of Teacher Education, Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

