

**Position open in Thule Institute's Doctoral Program in the research project
Potentiality of geodiversity information in biodiversity assessments (GEOBIO)
Deadline of applications December 31, 2012**

[Thule Institute's Doctoral Program](#) is one of the [UniOGS](#) doctoral programs, focusing on natural resources, environmental and northern issues. This call is open for all young researchers in any country, who are aiming for doctoral studies and who fulfill the requirements. The position is placed in the research group of Potentiality of geodiversity information in biodiversity assessments (GEOBIO), project leader is Prof. Jan Hjort. Project and position description are at the end of this page.

Conditions: Doctoral student position is open starting earliest at March 1, 2013 and will be filled to a period of up to 4 years, including a trial period of up to 4 months. The salary for a doctoral student will be based on levels 1-4 of the demands level chart for teaching and research personnel in the salary system of Finnish universities, supplemented by personal work performance up to 46.3% of the job demands level (range from 1747 to about 3500 € per month).

Selection criteria: In accordance with the requirements for a PhD student in the UniOGS, the applicants should hold a Master of Science degree or equal giving the right for doctoral studies in the field of physical geography, plant ecology or otherwise relevant field. Profound knowledge in plant ecology of high-latitude and high-altitude environments is prerequisite. Position include field work and requires good skills in plant species identification. In addition, successful applicant has good skills in geoinformatics and statistical modelling. We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated young researchers who are able to work in teams and who have good understanding and communication skills in English, both oral and written. The qualifications of the applicants will be carefully checked during the selection process.

Application procedure – Closing date December 31, 2012 before 3:00 pm (UTC+2)

The applicants should be aware of that the official certificates of qualifications must be presented upon request before the position is awarded. The best qualified candidates may be invited for an on-site or remote interview before final selection.

To apply you need to fill in the [form](#) and send a notification of application to the University of Oulu, Registrar's Office via e-mail kirjaamo (at)oulu.fi. Please indicate the following number in the e-mail: 31082012-31. The e-mail should be send latest **by December 31, 2012 before 3:00 pm local time (UTC+2)**.

Please note that you are allowed to include additional documents in the application to be considered in the selection process. The documents may be sent to the University of Oulu Registrar's Office via e-mail or by mail (address below).

Please note that if you don't manage to fill in the form, you may send the application to Address: University of Oulu, Registrar's Office, P.O. Box 8000, FIN-90014 UNIVERSITY OF OULU. The application should be received by recipient latest **at December 31, 2012 before 3:00 pm local time (UTC+2)**.

Important note for the applicants concerning UniOGS admissions:

Admission to the UniOGS is an essential prerequisite to a position funded by the Thule Institute's DP. If you haven't yet been awarded study rights in UniOGS, and you have been selected to the position in this call, you should apply to UniOGS. For more information on UniOGS and admissions to UniOGS, see the pages and the links therein: <http://www oulu.fi/uniogs/> and <http://www oulu.fi/uniogs/node/2662>

Project description

The potential of geodiversity information in biodiversity assessments (GEOBIO)

Principal investigator: Professor Jan Hjort, Department of Geography, University of Oulu, Finland

A long-term challenge in biodiversity research has been the establishment of robust methods for cost-effective targeting of conservation actions. Recently, the concept of geodiversity has been put forward as a novel complementary and potentially useful means to explore biodiversity. Geodiversity refers to the variability of earth surface materials, forms and processes at global, regional and local scales. The main objectives of this research project are to (i) develop a methodology to map and measure geodiversity, especially for biodiversity assessments, (ii) scrutinize the potentiality of measures of geodiversity in predicting the patterns of biodiversity and (iii) explore the strength and shape of the relationship between biodiversity and geodiversity. The central hypothesis is that inclusion of geodiversity information improves biodiversity models. The ultimate goal of the project is to significantly advance biodiversity mapping and modelling by considering geodiversity information. The five key study areas are located in Finland. The latitudinal extent between the northernmost and southernmost study area is ca. 1000 km, ranging across the boreal vegetation zone. The research is based on a unique set of field, GIS and remote sensing data and novel statistical approaches. The results of this project would have a high potential to make a significant step forward in surveying biodiversity at the landscape scale. More precisely, the results will advance biodiversity–geodiversity research beyond the state-of-the-art by (i) elucidating the potentiality of GIS-based mapping of geodiversity, (ii) revealing the most suitable measures of geodiversity for biodiversity assessments, (iii) improving the performance and robustness of biodiversity models at the landscape scale and (iv) providing an evidence base to inform the development of more integrated approaches to the conservation management of biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape as advocated under an ecosystem-based approach set out under the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the European Landscape Convention and in the EU biodiversity targets. Successful implementation of the project is based on extensive interdisciplinary national and international collaboration, existing high-quality data sets, and the participants' profound knowledge on biodiversity, geodiversity and modelling methods.

Keywords: biodiversity, geodiversity, geology, geomorphology, plant species richness, nature conservation, statistical modelling, spatial analysis, geoinformatics, GIS, remote sensing, landscape scale, boreal, sub-Arctic

Application procedure in short:

- **Deadline of applications December 31, 2012 at 3:00 pm local time (UTC+2)**
- Fill in the [form](#) carefully
- Send an e-mail with reference number **31082012-31** to the University of Oulu, Registrar's Office via e-mail kirjaamo (at)oulu.fi
- Attach any additional documents that you wish to be taken into account when filling in the position in the e-mail to the Registrar's Office
- If you don't manage to fill in the form, you may send the application together with additional documents to Address: University of Oulu, Registrar's Office, P.O. Box 8000, FI-90014 UNIVERSITY OF OULU

For further information, please contact:

Instructional coordinator Riitta Kamula, +358 (0)40 524 6013, riitta.kamula at oulu.fi

Project leader Prof. Jan Hjort, e-mail: jan.hjort at oulu.fi