

PhD position at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF)

We are looking for a highly motivated and skilled PhD researcher to join the project [The Nordic Borealization Network \(NordBorN\)](#) funded by NordForsk's University Cooperation call.

The Nordic Borealization Network (NordBorN) lead by Professor Isabel C. Barrio (Agricultural University of Iceland) will create a collaboration platform across the Nordic countries to understand the implications of ongoing shifts in the forest-tundra biome boundary, that is, the borealization in Nordic terrestrial ecosystems. These shifts include the encroachment of woody species (treeline advance and shrub expansion), spread of non-native species, changes in the composition of biotic communities and in the trophic and functional structure of ecosystems, and changes in landscape structure and ecosystem processes. As such, borealization provides the scope for multidisciplinary work and highlights the need of a strong consortium with complementary expertise. NordBorN will bring together six Nordic universities and three associated partners who will jointly develop research funding applications and will create opportunities for mobility and graduate student co-supervision across Nordic universities. Professor Timo Kumpula coordinates the UEF team's research in NordBorN.

The successful PhD applicant will work with multiple scale (from drones to satellite) remote sensing of shrub encroachment processes in tundra and treeline dynamics. The candidate is expected to have skills in remote sensing and machine learning. The position entails both office work and field work. We welcome candidates with background in geography, ecology, environmental sciences, geoinformatics and computer science. The position will provide a unique opportunity to be part of a large, active international team, participate in project meetings in different countries over the course of the project.

The PhD researcher will be based at the Joensuu campus of the University of Eastern Finland, at the department of Geography and historical studies, and will work closely together with Timo Kumpula and Miguel Villoslada and other members of Digital Geosciences research group. The deadline for applications is **April 15, 2024** and the position will start as soon as possible after **May 15, 2024**. The position has a duration of 20 months. The candidate will actively engage in funding acquisition with supervisors to ensure the full funding of PhD.

In your application you should include:

- Cover letter that explains how your research interests and experience align with the position
- CV or resume, including relevant experience
- List of two professional references and their contact information

Please do not hesitate to contact Timo Kumpula (Timo.Kumpula@uef.fi) or Miguel Villoslada (Miguel.villoslada@uef.fi) if you have any questions.

Applications should be submitted through electronic system of University of Eastern Finland:

Link to applications and electronic application submission:

<https://uef.varbi.com/en/what:job/jobID:707896/>

