

Postdoc in anthropology or social sciences of human-animal relations

The Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Aarhus University, invites highly qualified applicants for a two-year position as postdoc in anthropology or social sciences of human-animal relations from 1 September 2026 or soon thereafter.

The position

We seek a candidate with a background in anthropology or in the social sciences, and preferably with insight into animal husbandry and animal health and welfare. The aim is to strengthen the Dept. of Animal and Veterinary Sciences' ongoing research in human-animal relations at the intersection of anthropology, social sciences, veterinary and animal science.

Research tasks

The focus of the position is to:

- Study relations between humans and animals using anthropological or social science approaches.
- Investigate and develop methods for inspection of compliance with rules and regulations for animal welfare, food safety and medicinal usage for animals.
- Study actors involved in diversifying farming systems including animals.
- Study relations between veterinary professionals, clients and their animals in a veterinary context.
- Involved in a degree programme targeting professionals providing animal welfare inspection and advise.

Within his/her area of expertise, it is expected that in addition the candidate will:

- Participate in providing research-based public advice to authorities.
- Teach and supervise with special emphasis on communication, including relationships between key actors in agriculture, such as advisor-livestock farmer, inspector-farmer and client-animal-veterinarian.

Your profile

The preferred candidate should demonstrate an ability to obtain:

- External funding relevant to his/her research topics.
- A clear research profile through international publications.
- A relevant and efficient national and international network for collaboration.

The preferred candidate should have experience in conducting qualitative research studies and analysing qualitative data such as semi-structured interviews, field observations, photographs and narratives. The assignments include teaching communication at many levels and supervision of students.

The chosen candidate is expected to join and develop ongoing research within the research group [Management and Modelling \(MAMO\)](#). Collaboration with farmers, farming industries, veterinarians and animal welfare authorities is part of the assignment.

The ability to speak and write in Danish is needed to conduct research and teaching, and it is expected that the ideal candidate will attain a satisfactory level of Danish within an agreed timeframe.

What we offer

- A well-developed research infrastructure, laboratories and access to shared equipment and animal-experimental facilities.
- An informal and multicultural research environment with high professionalism

Application Deadline:
14 June 2026

Institute/Faculty:
Department of Animal
Science

Faculty:
Faculty of Technical
Sciences

**Academic contact
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Vacant positions:
1

Number of months:
24

Hours per week:
37

**Expected date of
accession:**
01/09/2026

and close collaboration and networking activities.

- A workplace characterized by equality and a good work-life balance, and an open discussion across different fields of research.

Who we are

Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences is well-known for its skilled and very innovative interdisciplinary research environments with high international impact. We perform world-class research, which contributes with solutions to solve essential societal challenges within the green transition: food production and veterinary medicine – nationally and globally.

The department generates novel research at the highest international level within sustainable food production, environment, climate, and health and welfare for animals and humans. The activities form the basis for the research-based public sector consultancy and degree programs covering bachelor's, master's and PhD degree programs within animal science and veterinary medicine. We offer a lively, engaged and innovative learning and study environment, which is closely integrated in the research environment.

ANIVET has unique and advanced animal experimental research facilities and technologies, situated in close connection to the research environment, and a comprehensive national and international research network and good industrial and professional collaboration.

Please refer to Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences (au.dk) for further information about the department; <https://anivet.au.dk/en>

Contact

Further information on the position may be obtained from Head of Research Unit, Professor Jan Tind Sørensen, phone: +4520783343, email: jantind.sorensen@anivet.au.dk.

Living in Denmark

Please visit the international staff website: <https://internationalstaff.au.dk/prearrival/> for information about arriving to and living in Denmark for both the applicants and their potential family.

Place of employment and place of work

The place of work is the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, AU Viborg, Blichers Allé 20, DK-8830 Tjele, and the area of employment is Aarhus University (AU) with related departments.

Application procedure

Shortlisting is used. This means that after the deadline for applications – and with the assistance from the assessment committee chairman, and the appointment committee if necessary, – the head of department selects the candidates to be evaluated. All applicants will be notified whether or not their applications have been sent to an expert assessment committee for evaluation. The selected applicants will be informed about the composition of the committee, and each applicant is given the opportunity to comment on the part of the assessment that concerns him/her self.

Letter of reference

If you want a referee to upload a letter of reference on your behalf, please state the referee's contact information when you submit your application. We strongly recommend that you make an agreement with the person in question before you enter the referee's contact information, and that you ensure that the referee has enough time to write the letter of reference before the application deadline. Unfortunately, it is not possible to ensure that letters of reference received after the application deadline will be taken into consideration.

If you wish to add a referee **after** you have submitted your application, you must send this person's details (name, job title, place of work, and email address) as well as the name of the position you have applied for to: HR.Nattech@au.dk

Formalities and salary range

Technical Sciences refers to the [Ministerial Order on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Danish Universities under the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and](#)

[Innovation.](#)

The application must be in English and include a curriculum vitae, degree certificate, a complete list of publications, a statement of future research plans and information about research activities, teaching portfolio and verified information on previous teaching experience (if any). Guidelines for applicants can be found [here](#).

Appointment shall be in accordance with the collective labour agreement between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations. Further information on qualification requirements and job content may be found in the [Memorandum on Job Structure for Academic Staff at Danish Universities](#).

Salary depends on seniority as agreed between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Confederation of Professional Associations.

Aarhus University's ambition is to be an attractive and inspiring workplace for all and to foster a culture in which each individual has opportunities to thrive, achieve and develop. We view equality and diversity as assets, and we welcome all applicants.

Research activities will be evaluated in relation to actual research time. Thus, we encourage applicants to specify periods of leave without research activities, in order to be able to subtract these periods from the span of the scientific career during the evaluation of scientific productivity.

Aarhus University offers a broad variety of services for international researchers and accompanying families, including relocation service and career counselling to expat partners. Read more [here](#). Please find more information about entering and working in Denmark [here](#).

Aarhus University also offers a Junior Researcher Development Programme targeted at career development for postdocs at AU. You can read more about it [here](#).

The application must be submitted via Aarhus University's recruitment system, which can be accessed under the job advertisement on Aarhus University's website.

Aarhus University

Aarhus University is an academically diverse and research-intensive university with a strong commitment to high-quality research and education and the development of society nationally and globally. The university offers an inspiring research and teaching environment to its 37,000 students (FTEs) and 8.700 employees and has an annual revenue of EUR 1.106 billion. Learn more at www.international.au.dk/