

**Focus of thesis (not topic): Optimizing methodologies in marine microbial ecology**

The student will be trained in cutting-edge microbial methods, including next-generation DNA sequencing and fluorescent microscopy. The student's knowledge will be supplemented with formal training in taxonomy, culturing, and pigment analysis of sea ice, pelagic and benthic biota. At the end of the student's master's project, (s)he will be knowledgeable enough to work independently and should have a foundation for future PhD studies. The student will apply various methods to optimize Arctic marine sampling of sediment, sea ice, and the water column and will become an expert in sampling methodologies by providing some of the first empirical data exploring cost-benefits of various methods that yield highly variable results.

For more information, please contact Dr. Brandon Hassett at [brandon.hassett@uit.no](mailto:brandon.hassett@uit.no)