

The Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at University of Bern performs research in a range of disciplines relevant to public health (www.ispm.ch). Groups cut across divisions, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to research in the fields of clinical epidemiology, social and behavioral health, biostatistics, and international and environmental health.

Environmental & Spatial Epidemiology Research Group conducts population-based and clinical studies in child health, focusing on cancer and environmental exposures.



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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student

PhD student in Environmental Epidemiology

Period: Fixed-term contract for 3 years, start January 2018 (negotiable)

Place: University of Bern, Switzerland

Apply no later than: 26th November 2017

It is known that medium to high doses of ionising radiation can cause cancer in children but direct evidence of effects of low dose exposure is still scarce. For a project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the research group Environment & Spatial Epidemiology at the ISPM Bern is seeking two PhD students. The aim of the project is to assess the effects of low dose ionising radiation on cancer risks in children. This PhD project (Environmental Epidemiology) will focus on investigating associations between childhood cancers and background ionising radiation using two nationwide datasets, the Swiss National Cohort (www.swissnationalcohort.ch) and the Swiss Childhood Cancer Registry (www.childhoodcancerregistry.ch). You will also participate in a multi-national study on background radiation and in a systematic review and meta-analysis of epidemiological studies on cancer risks associated with low-dose ionising radiation. The PhD will allow you to gain a broad understanding of environmental epidemiology, to apply your skills to a research question that has public health relevance and to learn to effectively communicate your results.

During your PhD you will:

- Investigate associations of background radiation exposure with childhood cancers in Switzerland.
- Conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis.
- Participate in a multi-national study on background ionising radiation and childhood cancers.
- Collaborate with a team of epidemiologists, statisticians and other PhD students.
- Present your results in international meetings and publish them in peer-reviewed journals.

You have:

- A university degree (MSc or equivalent) in environmental science, medicine or natural science (e.g. biology, physics etc.)
- Strong interest in public health and epidemiology
- The ability to work efficiently and independently
- Fluency in English both written and oral (Knowledge of German or French is an advantage)

What we offer:

- Working in a motivated and competent research team
- The possibility to attend courses – a wide range of topics offered (www.ssphplus-phd.ch)
- Preparation for a research career in an academic setting (university) or a public health institution
- Enrolment in a graduate school of the University of Bern (www.gcb.unibe.ch or www.ghs.unibe.ch)
- Salary according to the pay scales of the Swiss National Science Foundation for PhD students

For further information on the position advertised, please contact PD Dr Ben Spycher (ben.spycher@ispm.unibe.ch). Please send your application to hr@ispm.unibe.ch. Applications must be in English and include a curriculum vitae and motivation letter as PDF documents.