PhD Student in Climate Epidemiology (100%)

A fully funded PhD position (3.5 years) is open for an enthusiastic young researcher to work in the Climate Change and Health research group at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine and the Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research (OCCR) of the University of Bern (UniBe) in Bern, Switzerland.

The PhD student will conduct research on an interdisciplinary project on the effect of extreme humid heat and human health. The aim of the PhD project is to advance knowledge on the role of humidity on the effect of heat on health. It is intended to be an interdisciplinary PhD project to be developed under the supervision of Assist. Prof. Ana M. Vicedo-Cabrera (epidemiologist, research group leader Climate Change & Health, ISPM, UniBe). In particular, the PhD candidate is expected to develop new methodologies by combining methods in climate modelling, epidemiology and other relevant fields to assess the impact of extreme humid heat at global, regional and local level.

The Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) of Bern performs research in a range of disciplines relevant to public health. 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. The ISPM is highly reputed for its expertise in health effects of environmental exposures, the spread of infectious disease, and the health of vulnerable groups including children and the elderly.

The Climate Change and Health Group, led by Assistant Professor Ana Maria Vicedo-Cabrera, addresses the impacts of climate change on health using novel approaches in climate epidemiology. The offered position is for the ACTUAL project ("Advancing research on extreme humid heat and health"), funded in the SNSF Starting Grant 2022 call. The project aims to advance knowledge about the impact of humid heat on human health through developing, diversifying, and applying new methodologies, data resources, and settings beyond existing current state-of-the-art approaches in climate epidemiology.

Duties and responsibilities of the PhD candidate:

• Collaborate with an interdisciplinary team of epidemiologists, statisticians and climate modellers.
• Contribute to the design and conduct of epidemiological research projects.
• Clean and analyse large observational databases using standard and advanced statistical methods.
• Present own work at international conferences and publish articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Requirements:
- Strong interest in interdisciplinary research in the areas of epidemiology, climate science and impact modelling.
- Motivation to work on topics related to climate change and health.
- Master’s degree in a relevant discipline (ECTS 120-90) including climate science, mathematics/statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology.
- Experience in statistical analysis and programming techniques in R.
- The ability to work efficiently, independently and with interdisciplinary teams.
- Excellent knowledge of English, written and spoken.

**We offer:**

- An international, interdisciplinary and dynamic academic environment.
- Enrolment in the OCCR and the Graduate School of Climate Sciences (https://www.climatestudies.unibe.ch) of the University of Bern. It would provide excellent networking opportunities and the possibility to attend courses.
- Support for career development and training, including the Public Health Science Course Program of the University of Bern (https://www.medizin.unibe.ch/studies/study_programs/phs_course_program/index_eng.html).
- Salary according to the pay scales of the Swiss National Science Foundation for PhD students.

The post starts in January 2024 and is for 3.5 years. **Please apply no later than:** 15.09.2023

For further information on the position, please contact Ana M. Vicedo-Cabrera, anamaria.vicedo@unibe.ch.

Please send your application in one PDF-file to hr.ispm@unibe.ch. Applications must be written in English and include following elements: letter of motivation, curriculum vitae with publication list, and two letters of support.