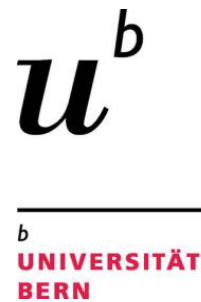


The Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at University of Bern performs research in a range of disciplines relevant to public health (www.ispm.ch). Groups cut across divisions, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to research in the fields of clinical epidemiology, social and behavioral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

The Paediatric Epidemiology Research Group conducts population-based and clinical studies in child health, focusing on respiratory disorders and cancer.



We are looking for a highly motivated

PhD or MD-PhD student in childhood asthma epidemiology

Asthma and chronic cough are common childhood diseases. Risk factors, clinical presentation, and success of treatments vary. Many children have transient problems, but some develop chronic disease continuing into adulthood. Clinical care and research would profit, if we could identify children who are at risk for a chronic course. Previous research has relied mainly on healthy birth cohorts; studies with real patients are few.

In your PhD, you will help to set up a clinical asthma cohort for children in Switzerland. Children visiting outpatient clinics of four Paediatric hospitals will complete a symptom questionnaire. Results from medical investigations (lung function and allergy tests) will also be collected.

You will have an active role in designing and managing the study. You will communicate with paediatricians and patients, develop questionnaires, organise the mailing and supervise junior staff for data entry. In a team of statisticians, epidemiologists, clinicians and other PhD students, you will learn different statistical approaches to distinguish asthma phenotypes, and to predict the likely disease course. You will present your results at international meetings and publish them in peer-reviewed journals.

Applicants should have a university degree (MD, MSc or equivalent) in medicine or a related field (biology, statistics, public health etc.) and **a strong interest in child health and epidemiology**. Previous experience in paediatric pulmonology is of advantage. You should be keen to learn statistical methods and software. The position requires fluency in both German and English.

The job is an ideal preparation for a research career in a clinical setting (paediatric teaching hospital), in a University or a public health institution, and counts as medical training in Paediatrics or Public Health. Teaching is organised via the two graduate schools of the University of Bern (www.gcb.unibe.ch and www.ghs.unibe.ch).

The position is available immediately. PhD salary rates of the Swiss National Science Foundation apply. If you look for an exciting PhD position in a highly motivated team, please send your CV with motivation letter to Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Kuehni, e-mail claudia.kuehni@ispm.unibe.ch and Ms Katharina Flandera e-mail katharina.flandera@ispm.unibe.ch For further information please contact us by e-mail. Please send your application as soon as possible, ideally by September 1, 2016.