

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.



b
**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

We are looking for a highly motivated

PhD or MD-PhD student: Epidemiology of a rare lung disease - Primary Ciliary Dykinesia

The PhD project will fill important knowledge gaps in the epidemiology of Primary Ciliary

Dyskinesia (PCD). PCD is a rare, genetic, multisystem disease that affects ~ 1 in 10,000 people. It leads to progressive upper and lower airway diseases, affecting quality of life. Genetic and functional factors affect the way the disease manifests but we still lack knowledge on the clinical epidemiology of PCD, the spectrum and severity of the disease, long-term course, risk factors and responses to treatment. **In a large collaborative project**, we collected longitudinal data of over 3800 PCD patients from 22 countries. This **international PCD cohort (iPCD)** provides a unique opportunity to describe the clinical picture and natural history of the disease and apply novel epidemiological methods. In addition, we manage the **Swiss PCD registry (CH-PCD)** a rich national dataset of more than 130 patients.

In your PhD, you will analyse these exciting datasets in order to, depending on your interests and expertise, answer questions on e.g. the phenotypic variation, the disease burden and morbidity predictors of PCD. You will have an active role in managing the studies and the opportunity to develop and lead nested projects, e.g. patient surveys. You will collaborate with an international multidisciplinary team of clinicians and researchers, gain a broad understanding of epidemiological methods and statistical techniques, present your results in meetings and publish them in peer-reviewed journals.

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

Applicants should have a university degree (MSc or equivalent) in medicine or applied science (biology, statistics, public health, etc.) and **a strong interest in child health and epidemiology**. You should be keen to learn statistical methods and software. The position requires fluency in both **English and German**. Previous clinical experience is an advantage and French is an asset.

The position is available from June 2019 (later dates can be negotiated). 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 (claudia.kuehni@ispm.unibe.ch) and Dr. Myrofora Goutaki (myrofora.goutaki@ispm.unibe.ch). For further information please contact us by e-mail. Please send you application as soon as possible, ideally by April 26th, 2019.