

An-Najah National University in collaboration with The Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) is happy to announce an open position for PhD studies in Epidemiology at the Swiss TPH in Basel- Switzerland.

The Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute is the biggest institution for public health, international health and tropical medicine in Switzerland. The institute with over 700 employees delivers a sustainable contribution with its research, education and services to the improvement of health worldwide. The Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (EPH), within Swiss TPH, develops and applies epidemiological, statistical and mathematical methods to advance innovation, validation and application in the field of public health. Within the Health Impact Assessment Group of EPH we are currently looking for a committed and enthusiastic PhD Student in Epidemiology (100%) to join the hands4health project

About the Research Project The position is linked to the hands4health project (full title: Hand hygiene, water quality and sanitation in primary health care and schools not connected to functional water supply system), with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation as main project funder. The developmental and scientific overarching objectives of the hands4health project are: (i) to develop and implement the holistic approach to hand hygiene, water quality and sanitation in primary health care facilities and schools without functional water supply systems adapted to local context and needs, develop the capacity of the implementation partners and management capacity of the target institutions, establish local production as well as create safe space for sharing evidence, knowledge and experiences; (ii) to innovate technologies and concepts separately and as an integrated part of a holistic approach; and (iii) to gain scientific evidence of the impact of the well-designed user-centered contextualized interventions. Swiss TPH will lead the health impact evaluation component of the project, aiming to generate evidence on how the interventions implemented affect health determinants (e.g. access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health outcomes (e.g. diarrheal diseases) and well-being indicators (e.g. WASH-related satisfaction of patients and school children). The impact evaluation will apply a mixed-methods approach, comprising qualitative and quantitative research approaches. We offer a challenging and exciting research opportunity in an interdisciplinary team on a topic with high public health in the four project countries, namely Palestine, Nigeria, Mali and Burkina Faso. The PhD is done within a doctoral program of the University Basel and the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+), accompanied by a rich offer of continuous education.

Main tasks of the PhD candidate are anticipated to be as follows:

- To contribute to the development of the study protocol for subsequent submission for ethical clearance
- To prepare quantitative and qualitative study tools to be applied in schools and primary health care facilities in the project countries
- To conduct a systematic scoping literature review
- To carry out field work in Palestine and potentially other project countries

- To do qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- To write scientific papers
- To present results at conferences and meetings
- To assist in project coordination and implementation in Palestine

Required qualifications:

- MSc in Epidemiology or Public Health, or persons with MD degree or a health-related discipline with a particular interest in epidemiology and public health
- Candidate needs to have a keen interest to work in a multi-disciplinary team with a focus on WASH
- Very good English skills (both written and spoken) are a requirement
- Experience in qualitative research methods is an asset • Knowledge in biostatics and practical experience in data analysis using statistical software (e.g. R, Stata) are an asset
- Additional language skills such as French is an asset
- To already have published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature (as first author or co-author) is an asset