



**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student

PhD student in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

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.

Mental Health Research Group studies the epidemiology of mental illness, interactions between mental illness and physical diseases, the provision of mental health care, and the influence of mental illness on the treatment of physical comorbidities.

Period: Fixed-term contract for 3 years, starting August 2021 (negotiable)

Place: University of Bern, Switzerland

Apply no later than: 30th July 2021

The [Mental Health Research Group](#) is looking for a highly motivated PhD student who will conduct epidemiological research on the mental health of HIV-positive and HIV-negative populations in Southern Africa. The focus of the PhD project is to study the links between mental illness, physical comorbidity, and mortality and the provision of mental health care in Southern Africa using large observational databases (e.g. [IeDEA-SA](#)). The PhD project is part of a large NIH-funded research project (<https://www.iedea-sa.org/>). The successful candidate will join a global research consortium (<https://www.iedea.org/>) and closely collaborate with the [HIV, Hepatitis and TB Research Group](#) at ISPM and our research partners at the Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research ([CIDER](#)) at the University of Cape Town.

Responsibilities of the successful candidate include:

- Collaborate with an interdisciplinary team of epidemiologists, statisticians, psychiatrists and infectious disease physicians.
- Contribute to the design and conduct of epidemiological research projects.
- Contribute to systematic reviews and meta-analyses.
- Clean and analyse large observational databases using standard and advanced statistical methods (e.g. advanced survival analysis, causal mediation analysis, machine learning – depending on interest and experience of the candidate).
- Actively participate in an international research consortium.
- Liaison with project partners in Southern African countries (occasional international travel required).
- Present own work at international conferences and publish articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Requirements:

- Strong interest in applied research in the areas of epidemiology, biostatistics and mental health.
- Master's degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. statistics, mathematics, psychiatry, psychology, medicine, social science).
- Experience in statistical analysis and programming techniques, preferably in R and/or Stata.
- Experience in database management (e.g. SQL) is an advantage.
- The ability to work efficiently, independently and with multicultural teams.
- Excellent knowledge of English.

We offer:

- A multicultural, diversified and dynamic academic environment.
- Excellent networking opportunities.
- The possibility to attend courses – a wide range of topics offered (www.ssphplus-phd.ch).
- 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, please contact Dr Andreas Haas (andreas.haas@ispm.unibe.ch). Please send your application to hr@ispm.unibe.ch with a copy to andreas.haas@ispm.unibe.ch. Applications must be in English and include a curriculum vitae and a cover letter with a personal statement describing your suitability and motivation.