

PhD network for Southeast Europe (PhD-SEE) ***(Call for application for external PhD fellows at CAPHRI)***

Description

The Department of International Health (INTHEALTH) is the coordinating centre of the *Public Health Research Network for Southeast Europe (PHR-Net)*. Through this call, INTHEALTH invites candidates from Southeast European (SEE) countries (namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia) to apply for 5 (five) external PhD positions at the School for Public Health and Primary Care (CAPHRI), Maastricht University, The Netherlands.

The aim of this call is to offer research possibilities, which would ultimately materialize in PhD defences, to talented and motivated SEE public health professionals who can not leave their countries for work or family reasons, but nevertheless wish to combine work, research and public health practice. This philosophy is in line with the mission and vision of the PHR-Net which, through the support of Maastricht University, is seeking for effective and efficient solutions for reconstructing and strengthening public health research capacities in SEE countries.

Features of the external PhD track at CAPHRI

- Successful candidates may obtain the PhD degree after 4 years from the start of their PhD work. End-terms for acquiring the PhD title are made clear from the start of the PhD track and are communicated to the PhD fellows by the (co-)promoters and the PhD coordinator. A provisional publication plan is made in the first three months, and is regularly updated by the PhD fellows and (co-)promoters. Each PhD thesis defended at CAPHRI consists of at least 5 high quality papers (in which the PhD fellow is the first author) that have been submitted to international scientific journals. At least 3 papers have to be accepted for publication at the time of graduation. Apart from a successful defence of the PhD thesis, the Training and Supervision Plan has to be completed successfully to show one has become a well-equipped researcher.
- The topic of the PhD will be chosen by the candidate and preferably should be in line with the work they are currently doing in their home countries in agreement, however, with the (co-)promoters. PhD topics related to the work of INTHEALTH are also possible.
- In principle, external PhD fellows are not required to attend additional courses at Maastricht University. Nevertheless, all the external PhD fellows will be invited 2-3 times per year for

various lectures/courses which will be tailored in accordance with their needs and preferences. Partial funding for these meetings will be made available by INTHEALTH.

- The external PhD track at CAPHRI grants to the successful candidates full access to the online University Library (both, Medical and Health sciences) at their home countries for the whole duration of the PhD program.
- All steps of the research work (including data collection, data analysis and subsequently writing of the thesis and scientific articles) are conducted at applicants' home countries under online supervision of INTHEALTH and CAPHRI (co-)promoters, as well as local supervisor(s).
- External PhD fellows do not receive wages or other forms of reimbursement from CAPHRI.

Core criteria for selection of applicants – Interested candidates should submit the following documents (please scan all documents and send as e-mail attachments to the following address: anita.creusen@inthealth.unimaas.nl):

- A letter of motivation
- A short description of the suggested PhD topic
- Curriculum Vitae
- A copy of the Bachelor degree
- A copy of the Master degree (MSc, MPH, MBA, MA, or equivalent degrees)
- English language proficiency
- Two letters of reference from renowned professors at applicants' home countries.

Preferential criteria – preference will be given to the following candidates:

- Quality of the proposed topic
- Work experience in public health education, research and practice
- Publications in international scientific journals
- Other relevant certificates/proofs

For further questions regarding the application procedures and selection criteria, please contact Genc Burazeri at: genc.burazeri@inthealth.unimaas.nl.

Deadline for submission of the documents is Friday, May 14, 2010.

Decision about acceptance will be done until May 21, 2010.

The first meeting of the PhD-SEE network will take place in Maastricht, The Netherlands, and is scheduled for the week 07.06.2010 – 11.06.2010.