Doctoral (PhD) student position in Environmental Epidemiology

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Do you want to contribute to top quality medical research?

To be a doctoral student means to devote oneself to a research project under supervision of experienced researchers and following an individual study plan. For a doctoral degree, the equivalent of four years of full-time doctoral education is required.

The Institute of Environmental Medicine (IMM) is a department at Karolinska Institutet and an interdisciplinary research institution within the broad field of environmental medicine. IMM conducts cutting edge research within the areas of environmental and occupational medicine, toxicology, physiology, epidemiology, and biostatistics with the aim to clarify how environmental and lifestyle factors affect our health and which role genes have. IMM also serves as a scientific advisor to public authorities within the area of environmental medicine and IMM scientists participate in national and international expert groups.

The research group

The epidemiological research at IMM is focused on advancing knowledge about disease etiology and prognosis with an emphasis on environmental and lifestyle factors, and on methodological development and stringency. The unit of Environmental Epidemiology is focused on epidemiological research concerning the health effects of ambient air pollution, community noise and green structure as well as causes of asthma and allergy. Molecular biomarkers are used to assess interactions between environmental and hereditary factors, as well as to better characterize exposure and health effects. Many projects are conducted in international collaboration. We often participate in environmental health risk assessments for national as well as international organizations and authorities. These assessments are often based on research conducted within the unit. This doctoral project is performed in collaboration with two other units at IMM, the unit of Cardiovascular and Nutritional Epidemiology and the unit of Occupational Medicine.

The doctoral student project and the duties of the doctoral student

Environmental factors such as air pollution, traffic noise and green structure are important determinants of health. Still we need better understanding on how these factors together contribute to, or protect from, the development of disease. The overall aim of this project is to assess the impact of air pollution, traffic noise and green structure on the development of cardiovascular diseases such as myocardial infarction and stroke, particular in light of other important risk factors including behavior such as diet and lifestyle, occupational exposures and socioeconomic determinants. The project will utilize data from a prospective longitudinal cohort
and national registers and apply quantitative epidemiological methods. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used for exposure assessment.

The doctoral student is expected to acquire broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the main research fields encompassed in the thesis work including the exposures and the related health outcomes, epidemiological theory and principles and principles of health risk assessment. This will be accomplished through working on the project under supervision, taking relevant courses and participate in seminars and journal clubs. The student is also expected to acquire in-depth experience in the epidemiological methods applied, manage the data, perform the statistical modelling, interpret and present the results and in disease etiology; further, to develop excellent scientific writing and deliver high-quality publications in international peer-reviewed journals as well as give presentations at scientific meetings.

What do we offer?

A creative and inspiring environment full of expertise and curiosity. Karolinska Institutet is one of the world's leading medical universities. Our vision is to pursue the development of knowledge about life and to promote a better health for all. At Karolinska Institutet, we conduct successful medical research and hold the largest range of medical education in Sweden. As a doctoral student you are offered an individual research project, a well-educated supervisor, a vast range of elective courses and the opportunity to work in a leading research group. Karolinska Institutet collaborates with prominent universities from all around the world, which ensures opportunities for international exchanges. You will be employed on a doctoral studentship which means that you receive a contractual salary. Employees also have access to our modern gym for free and receive reimbursements for medical care.

Eligibility requirements for doctoral education

In order to participate in the selection for a doctoral position, you must meet the following general (A) and specific (B) eligibility requirements at latest by the application deadline.

It is your responsibility to certify eligibility by following the instructions on the web page Entry requirements (eligibility) for doctoral education.

A) General eligibility requirement
You meet the general eligibility requirement for doctoral/third-cycle/PhD education if you:

1. have been awarded a second-cycle/advanced/master qualification (i.e. master degree) or
2. have satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the advanced/second-cycle/master level, or
3. have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.*

Follow the instructions on the web page Entry requirements (eligibility) for doctoral education.

*If you claim equivalent knowledge, follow the instructions on the web page Assessing equivalent knowledge for general eligibility for doctoral education.

B) Specific eligibility requirement
You meet the specific eligibility requirement for doctoral/third-cycle/PhD education if you:

- Show proficiency in English equivalent to the course English B/English 6 at Swedish upper secondary school.

Follow the instructions on the web page English language requirements for doctoral education.

Verification of your documents
Karolinska Institutet checks the authenticity of your documents. Karolinska Institutet reserves the right to revoke admission if supporting documents are discovered to be fraudulent. Submission of false documents is a violation of Swedish law and is considered grounds for legal action.
Skills and personal qualities

We are looking for a dedicated student with a solid background within the field of environmental factors and health. Applicants with a degree in environmental science, public health, biomedicine, medicine, nutrition, statistics or toxicology are encouraged to apply. Documented knowledge in epidemiology and experience from working with epidemiological studies (particularly in environmental medicine), as well as of quantitative methods, database management, statistical analyses and using the STATA or R software is a merit. Experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is also desirable.

The student must be able to work independently and take responsibility for project progression. Other required personal skills are analytic ability, endurance and ability for structured work. The applicant will also need to feel comfortable with working in teams and demonstrate good interpersonal skills. Furthermore, it is a requirement that the applicant has a very high proficiency of English both in terms of speech and writing. Proficiency in Swedish is a merit in order to be able to communicate with authorities and to participate in national health risk assessments.

Terms and conditions

The doctoral student will be employed on a doctoral studentship maximum 4 years full-time.

Application process

Submit your application and supporting documents through the Varbi recruitment system. Use the button in the top right corner and follow the instructions.

Your application should contain the following documents:

- A personal letter and a curriculum vitae (Swedish or English)
- Degree projects and previous publications, if any (Swedish or English)
- Any other documentation showing the desirable skills and personal qualities described above (Swedish or English)
- Documents certifying your general eligibility (see A above)
- Documents certifying your specific eligibility (see B above)

Selection

A selection will be made among eligible applicants on the basis of the ability to benefit from doctoral education. The qualifications of the applicants will be evaluated on an overall basis. Karolinska Institutet uses the following bases of assessment:

- Documented subject knowledge of relevance to the area of research
- Analytical skill
- Other documented knowledge or experience that may be relevant to doctoral studies in the subject.

All applicants will be informed when the recruitment is completed.

For more information:
https://ki.se/en/about/yourcareer-continues-here

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Type of employment    PhD placement
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<tr>
<th><strong>Contract type</strong></th>
<th>Full time</th>
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<td><strong>Salary</strong></td>
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