Job Title:
Assistant Researcher/Researcher – Burkina Faso (INDDEX)

Description:

This job will be an Assistant Researcher or Researcher depending on the experience of the candidate and is a 2.5-year limited appointment position.

The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, established in 1981, is the only self-governing graduate and professional school of nutrition in North America. Its mission is to improve the nutritional well-being of people worldwide through the creation of new knowledge; the application and dissemination of evidence-based information; and the education and training of future leaders in the field. This mission is fulfilled by bringing together experts from the areas of clinical nutrition, social and public policy, and biomedicine. Faculty at the school include biomedical scientists, economists, epidemiologists, nutritionists, physicians, political scientists and psychologists who focus on a myriad of issues with the common thread of nutrition and its role in fostering the growth and development of human populations.

This full time, term-limited position for an Assistant Field Researcher/Field Researcher offers an exciting opportunity to be part of the International Dietary Data Expansion (INDDEX) Project. A collaborative effort between the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and other international experts, the INDDEX project aims to facilitate low and middle income countries’ increased acquisition and use of high-quality, timely food consumption data, which is needed to create more effective evidence-based decisions about agriculture, food, and nutrition policies and programs. The INDDEX Project has four overarching objectives:

1. Develop technologies to standardize and streamline the collection and analysis of individual-level dietary data,
2. Improve the design and use of the food data collected in household consumption and expenditure surveys (HCES);
3. Demonstrate how to use ‘fit-for-purpose’ indicators and analyses from dietary intake data, HCES, and food balance data (FBS);
4. Develop guidance that will effectively communicate scientific advancements and technological achievements to international stakeholders.
The INDDEX Project will be partnering with two countries (Bangladesh and Burkina Faso) and is seeking to hire two Assistant Researchers/Researchers whose primary responsibility will be to represent INDDEX in one of these two countries. As INDDEX’s in-country representative in Burkina Faso, the Assistant Researcher/Researcher will be responsible for advancing the project’s research activities on the ground, maintaining excellent relationships with in-country collaborators, developing in-country capacity for better dietary data collection, analysis, and use, and identifying opportunities to champion the scale-up of food consumption data at the country level as well as regionally and globally.

The Assistant Researcher/Researcher will work collaboratively with the INDDEX team (the PI and Co-PI, the consulting Dietary Assessment Expert, the Boston-based Assistant Researchers, INDDEX partners) and in-country collaborators to conduct a planned feasibility assessment and cost-effectiveness study of the INDDEX24 platform that is being designed to collect and process dietary data in low-income countries. INDDEX24 will be comprised of a mobile application for conducting 24-hour dietary recall surveys and a linked web database application that will house databases required for collection and processing of 24-hour recall data (e.g., food composition databases, recipe databases, etc.). The Assistant Researcher/Researcher may also work with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on a potential validation study of the application using the doubly labelled water technique. The Assistant Researcher/Researcher will coordinate and implement all field-level aspects of the feasibility and validations studies, including, but not limited to, input into pre- and post- study logistics, study protocols and IRB applications, working with local collaborators to identify field sites, training enumerators, and data collection, processing and analysis. The Assistant Researcher/Researcher will also need to carefully track costs related to the dietary assessment application in order to inform the cost-effectiveness study.

The Assistant Researcher/Researcher will assist with convening and supporting an in-country technical advisory group of dietary assessment experts representing various cooperating Ministries in Burkina Faso and other key stakeholders from national and international organizations, who will oversee key aspects of the project. The Assistant Researcher/Researcher will work with the TAG and other stakeholders to offer input into the design of the dietary assessment application, assist in the compilation of databases needed to implement dietary surveys (food composition tables, standardized recipes, portion size conversions), strategize opportunities to integrate dietary-data into decision-making about food, nutrition, agriculture, and health programs and policies, assist with capacity-building activities, oversee the development and implementation of guidance materials, in-country technical workshops and support, and help to organize and participate in virtual working groups with representatives from other countries in the region.
The INDEXX Project is implemented by Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy with funding from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Qualifications

Minimum Requirements:

- PhD in nutrition science, policy, public health, development economics, policy and/or another related field;
- Master’s degree in nutrition science, policy, public health and/or another related field;
- At least 3 years of population-based research experience, some or all in a low- or middle-income country;
- Experience living/working within Sub-Saharan Africa or Asia;
- Excellent research skills including experience in survey design and implementation, preferably in low-income countries;
- Knowledge of and experience using 24 hour recall dietary assessment methods.
- Comfort with using mobile (tablet-based) software for implementing quantitative 24-hour recall dietary recalls;
- Experience using food consumption data for decision-making; constructing dietary variables and applying them in policy-relevant analyses at the individual level (use of HCES and FBS data for policy-relevant analyses is a plus);
- Proficient in data analysis programs (such as SPSS, STATA or Nvivo) and Microsoft Office Suite
- Experience working collaboratively with government counterparts
- Demonstrated leadership qualities and ability to motivate others around a common agenda
- Excellent organizational and managerial ability, attention to detail, and ability to multitask;
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines with efficiency and accuracy;
- Communicates with clarity, sensitivity, diplomacy and tact with a range of high-level stakeholders, including high level of interaction with scholars, scientists, technological experts, government officials, policymakers, and international agency officials, as well as with local staff and study participants;
- Ability to write clearly and effectively for scientific and policy audiences and to carefully edit detailed scientific documents;
- Fluency in French (oral and written) for position in Burkina Faso;
- Excellent professional English, written and oral.
- Capacity and commitment to function as part of a team;
• Cultural sensitivity, patience and respect, and a helpful attitude toward resolving problems and answering questions are essential.

Preferred Qualifications:

These additional qualifications would be for the Researcher level:

• PhD in nutrition science, policy, public health and/or another related field
• Experience managing research projects and/or programs in low-income countries in nutrition, health, correlated technical sectors;
• Experience in an advocacy role, particularly advocating for nutrition-related goals to government actors;
• Familiar with procedures to collect and analyze doubly-labeled water for validation study, including administration of prepared solutions, collection of urine/stool samples, safe storage and transportation of biological samples for laboratory analysis is a plus
• Experience using French in Africa preferred for position

Special Work Schedule Requirements:
This position will likely be based in Boston for the first 1-2 months and then Burkina Faso. Funding for this position is through May 2019. Occasional research team meetings and project deadlines require working beyond normal office hours.

Please apply online through the Careers at Tufts Website: http://jobs.hr.tufts.edu/ (Job ID: 16001831). For any specific questions, please contact us at inddex@tufts.edu