

PhD Student – Evidence to improve health outcomes for young children and their mothers in LMICs: the role of air quality (1,0 fte)

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM) invites applications for a fully-funded, four-year PhD position in the Health Economics research group.

Job description

Each year about 277,000 mothers and 1,150,000 children die in pregnancy and childbirth in low- and middle- income countries (LMICs), with Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) accounting for two thirds of these (The World Bank, 2018; World Health Organization, 2019). Earlier research has focused on access and quality of health care and showed that a considerable share of child and maternal deaths can be avoided by the application of good quality basic medical procedures to prevent and manage complications (Bobo et al., 2021; World Health Organization, 2014). A different, partly overlooked, factor with potentially large negative effects on child and maternal health is air quality. While the negative and considerable effects of air quality on child and maternal health outcomes have been studied in HICs (Chay & Greenstone, 2003; Currie et al., 2009, 2015; Currie & Neidell, 2005; Sanders & Stoecker, 2015), less is known about LMICs (Greenstone & Hanna, 2014). Especially in SSA very little is known about air quality because of limited availability of ground measurement stations. This research project will benefit from the recent launch of a satellite with the TROPOMI instrument on board, that observes air quality worldwide every 24 hours with details up to five to ten square kilometers. We will exploit those publicly available data to link changes in air quality to child and maternal health as reported in household surveys with GPS information on (broad) location of the household. This will provide novel insights about the relation between air quality and child and maternal health, specifically in African countries.

The PhD candidate will be supervised by prof. Tom Van Ourti and Igna Bonfrer PhD, in collaboration with others.

Requirements

The successful candidate should have strong quantitative skills, an interest in global health and demonstrated excellent communication skills in English. A (research) master degree in a quantitative field such as Health Economics, Epidemiology, Economics or Econometrics is required.

Conditions of employment

Fixed-term contract: 4 year.

We offer a full-time position as PhD student at Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). The PhD candidate will be located at the Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management

(ESHPM). We offer a 1.5 year position with the possibility of extension to 4 years based on performance. Starting date of PhD appointment is as soon as possible. In addition to conducting research, there will be some teaching duties (~15% of your time).

Remuneration will be in accordance with the PhD scale set by the Collective Labor Agreement for Dutch Universities (CAO NU). Fulltime work will pay €2434 per month before taxes in the first year, going up to €3111 per month in the fourth year. EUR offers a holiday allowance (8%), a set end-of-year bonus (8.3%), and there are generous opportunities for additional education and attendance at scientific conferences. Full time is considered to be 38 hours a week.

Employer

Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)

[Erasmus University Rotterdam](#) is an internationally oriented university with a strong social orientation in its education and research. Inspired by the dynamic and cosmopolitan city of Rotterdam, our scientists and students work in close collaboration with internal and external parties to solve global social challenges. Our mission is therefore "Creating positive societal impact". Our academic education is intensive, active and application oriented. Our research increasingly takes place in multidisciplinary teams, which are strongly intertwined with international networks. With our research impact and thanks to the high quality of education, EUR ranks amongst the top European universities. Erasmian values function as our internal compass and make Erasmus University recognizable to the outside world: engaged with society, world citizen, connecting, entrepreneurial and open-minded.

Department

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM)

[Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management](#) is part of Erasmus University Rotterdam and is responsible for a bachelors and three (international) master programs on health policy, economics and management, serving more than 1300 students. ESHPM is a multidisciplinary school with research focusing on three main themes: ‘competition and regulation in healthcare’; ‘quality and efficiency in healthcare’; and ‘healthcare management’. The position is offered in the Health Economics group.

At ESHPM, in addition to the Health Economics group, there are health economists in [Health Systems and Insurance](#) and [Health Technology Assessment](#). Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management is a founding member of the [Erasmus Centre for Health Economics Rotterdam](#) (EsCHER) that bundles all health economics research at Erasmus University Rotterdam. EsCHER employs one of the largest collections of health economists in the world and is the perfect environment to collaborate and exchange ideas. It also runs a health economics seminar series in collaboration with the [Tinbergen Institute](#).

Additional information

Qualified applicants should send by email a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and, if available, an example research paper, as well as the names and email addresses of two referees to sollicitatie@eshpm.eur.nl. The application deadline is November 15, 2021. For more information and further details about the project, you may contact Tom Van Ourti (vanourti@ese.eur.nl) or Igna Bonfrer (bonfrer@eshpm.eur.nl).