Are you interested in investigating the relationship between trade policy, food security, diets, and public health?

Are you keen to build on your existing public health, political science, or public policy research skills?

Are you interested in pursuing PhD research aimed at supporting the development of trade policy which maximises benefits for nutrition, food security, human health, and the economy?

We are inviting outstanding doctoral candidates planning to commence their degree program in 2013/2014 to work as part of a collaborative research team conducting ground-breaking research into the causal links between trade and investment agreements, diets and health. The research is focused on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement currently under-negotiation and is supported by an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant.

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National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health
ANU College of Medicine, Biology & Environment

PHD OPPORTUNITIES
Trade policy, food, diets & health
Trade policy: maximising benefits for nutrition, food security, human health and the economy

The PhD candidate would be part of a large research project focused on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement currently under-negotiation and is supported by an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project Grant.

The research team is led by Professor Sharon Friel at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), located in the Research School of Population Health, College of Medicine, Biology and Environment at The Australian National University.

Co-Investigators: Associate Professor Adrian Kay (Crawford School for Public Policy, ANU), Professor Gabriele Bammer (NCEPH, ANU), Dr Deborah Gleeson (La Trobe University, Australia), Dr Anne Marie Thow (University of Sydney, Australia), Professor Ronald Labonte (University of Ottawa, Canada), Dr Wendy Snowdon (Deakin University and Fiji National University) and Dr David Stuckler (University of Oxford, UK).

Potential PhD topic areas

There are a number of exciting opportunities for outstanding PhD candidates to work with this highly experienced research team. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the team leader, Professor Sharon Friel, directly to discuss topic ideas. Applications on the following research topics focussed on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) currently under-negotiation, are strongly encouraged:

- Quantitative analysis and modelling of the diet-related health risks of the TPP agreement, possibly using soft drinks as a case study (ANU, co-supervised by Professor Friel and Dr Stuckler)
- Understanding the implications of a trade agreement such as the TPP for government capacity to regulate in the public interest, possibly with a focus on food labelling (ANU, co-supervised by Professor Friel and Associate Professor Adrian Kay)
- Politics of Australian international trade policy-making, with reference to the TPP (ANU, co-supervised by A/Prof Adrian Kay, Prof Sharon Friel, and Dr Deborah Gleeson)

Applicants who have a high level of academic achievement in a relevant bachelor's degree (first class honours) or master's degree are encouraged to apply. Other qualifications may be considered for entry.

Candidates will be expected to enrol in full-time candidature at The Australian National University, Canberra. One top-up scholarship at an annual rate of $3500 is available for an exceptional candidate. This scholarship is contingent on the candidate successfully applying for an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA), ANU PhD scholarship, or similar.

Contact

For further information and discussion about the topics, applicants are encouraged to contact Professor Sharon Friel:

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