**CLOSED**

PANINI PhD Studentship

**Title of PhD project:** Neuromuscular function among middle-aged women; the role of menopausal status, physical activity and psychological factors.

**Host Institution:** Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

The University of Jyväskylä is a nationally and internationally significant research university and an expert on education that focuses on human and natural sciences. The University is Finland’s leading expert in teacher education and adult education, as well as the major exporter of education. The University of Jyväskylä is known for its dynamic operating culture and strong commitment to social responsibility. The Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences is the only one in the country. Physical activity and health, as well as their relationships and promotion, are explored there from a multidisciplinary perspective, with the improvement of health, functional ability and wellbeing across the human lifespan as the key aim.

**Description:** The Department of Health Sciences at the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences is recruiting an Early Stage Researcher (ESR, Doctoral Student) to a fixed-term position beginning May 15 2016 until May 14 2019 or according to a separate agreement. The ESR will be assigned to the ”Physical activity and nutrition influences in ageing” (PANINI) research project. The PhD project focuses on the role of menopausal status, physical activity and psychological factors on neuromuscular function among middle-aged women. The ESR will get access to a dataset collected from 1000 women. Dataset will be completed by the end of the year 2016.

We offer

-Exciting and high quality research related to neuromuscular function, physical activity and psychological factors.

-A thorough scientific education with transferrable skills such as international research networking, project management, scientific writing and reporting

-Free tuition in a top Finnish university surrounded by magnificent nature

-A competitive salary and additional resources to conduct exciting research and to take part in international conferences and collaborations

-An inspiring and supportive research environment at the Gerontology Research Center (GEREC), the Department Health Sciences. (<http://www.gerec.fi/en>).

**Supervisors** are Sarianna Sipilä, Professor in Exercise Gerontology, Taija Juutinen, Professor in Kinesiology; Katja Kokko, Research Director (research area: psychology).

The ESR is expected to pursue a PhD degree within the program. Therefore, prerequisite for the candidate is a Master’s degree in a relevant academic area. Experience with or interest in neuromuscular function and body composition assessments, while not required, is valued. The applicant’s merits are assessed on the basis of the quality of Master’s level studies and thesis, previous experience with scientific research (including possible conference and journal publications), motivation and research interests.

The selected person is required to have a good command of English language as the working language is English. According to the European Union’s Horizon 2020 eligibility rules the candidate must not have lived in host country for more than 12 months in previous 3 years to appointment. The candidate must be in first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of research career at time of recruitment*.* The salary is based on the Marie Curie Program regulations and consists of living, mobility and possible family allowances. The Living allowance is 3110 Euro per month; Mobility allowance is 600 Euro per month; Family Allowance (if applicable) is 500 Euro per month. All allowances are before employers and employees’ deductions for host country national tax and social security. Appointee is subject to a four-month trial period.

The position can also be applied for by students who have not yet been accepted for doctoral studies at the University of Jyväskylä and the Department of Health Sciences. In case such a student is being recruited for the position, he/she has to get the acceptance for doctoral studies at the University of Jyväskylä by the end of the four month trial period.

 The application should include:

1) A statement of research interests and reasons for applying to the program (Motivation letter)

2) Curriculum vitae (max. 5 pages) See example: http://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae

3) The names and e-mail addresses of two referees

4) A certificate of Master’s degree and grades of Master’s level studies (Copies of degree certificates/diplomas) and copy of the master’s thesis (Selected publications)

5) Proof of proficiency in English

 For additional information, please see PANINI website ([http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/panini/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/panini/index.aspx%20) ) or contact Professor Sarianna Sipilä primarily by e-mail, sarianna.sipila@jyu.fi, or by phone +358 408053593.

The closing date for the first round of applications is March 20, 2016. Submit your application using the online application form <http://www.saimanet.com/certiahome/aew.html?did=5600&lang=en&job_id=2083&jc=12>

**Notes:**

* This studentship is part of an international training network – Physical Activity and Nutrition INfluences In ageing (PANINI) including cross-Europe training and secondments.
* There are 11 available PhD studentships in the PANINI network.  For details see: [http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/panini/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/panini/index.aspx%20)
* This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No [675003].