

Opportunity for three Postdoctoral Scholarships in Nutritional Epidemiology at the Center for Epidemiological Research in Health and Nutrition at the University of São Paulo

The Center for Epidemiological Studies in Health and Nutrition (NUPENS) is a world-leading research unit that aims to advance the field of population nutrition. Among its achievements is the creation of the concept of ultra-processed foods and the Nova system to classify foods by degrees of processing. Located at the University of Sao Paulo (USP), NUPENS was founded in 1990 to develop multi-disciplinary research that contributes to the promotion of population health and nutrition. The center brings together faculty members and researchers, from various disciplines, that are affiliated to the School of Public Health, other USP units and other national and international academic institutions, as well as undergraduate, master and doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. Key research areas include the development of innovative analytical strategies for assessment of food consumption and nutritional status of populations, studies on the socio-demographic distribution and temporal trends of diet and nutritional status indicators, studies on the causality of nutrition-related diseases, and design of interventions and evaluations of food and nutrition programs.

The three PD scholarships were granted to NUPENS by Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP) to carry out the thematic project “Research program of Population Studies on the Consumption of Ultra-processed Foods and Health” (process 2022/05636-0). The project is coordinated by Professors Carlos A. Monteiro, Renata B. Levy and Maria Laura C. Louzada.

The scholarships have a duration of 24 months and are renewable for a further 24 months. The activities of the postdoctoral fellows (PD) at NUPENS/USP include intensive dedication to an individual work plan centered on one of the center’s research projects, collaboration with other ongoing projects, participation in regular scientific meetings, preparation of manuscripts and research findings at national and international conferences and events. Residence in the city of Sao Paulo is mandatory.

The individual work plans related to the three announced scholarships will be developed around the NutriNet Brasil Cohort Study. This study has been following, since January 2020, over a hundred thousand adults residing in Brazil, assessing diet and health status, and variables influencing these two conditions. The main objective of this prospective study is to analyze the association between dietary patterns (including the ultra-processed dietary pattern) and morbidity and mortality from chronic diseases, including obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, renal and mental diseases,, and cancers related to diet. More information about the NutriNet Brasil Study can be found in the study's publications, such as:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37522809/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37548217/>

PRE-REQUISITES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Brazilian and foreign researchers with a doctoral degree, obtained less than seven years ago, from a Brazilian or a foreign academic institution, are eligible to apply. Training in biostatistics and epidemiology, proficiency in statistical softwares, and experience in handling and analyzing complex databases, as well as scientific writing skills, are essential requirements. Experience in dietary intake assessment and in analysis of cohort studies will be highly valued.

DOCUMENTATION FOR REGISTRATION

1. Cover letter explaining the candidate motivations
2. Curriculum vitae (Lattes for Brazilians).
3. MyResearcherID and/or MyCitation (Google Scholar)
4. Two recommendation letters

SELECTION CRITERIA

Candidates interested in applying should submit their documentation by January 15th, 2024, to nutrinetbrasil@fsp.usp.br with the subject line: BOLSA PD NUPENS/NUTRINET BRASIL.

The selection of candidates for the three scholarships will be based on the analysis of documentation and, if necessary, an interview conducted via Google Meet or a similar platform.

Selected candidates will receive a scholarship worth R\$ 9.047,40 per month and a technical reserve, which is equivalent to 10% of the annual value of the scholarship and is intended to cover expenses directly related to the scholarship holder's research activity, including attendance to scientific events.

The scholarship includes an installation allowance for researchers residing outside the city of São Paulo, Brazil, where NUPENS/USP is located. This includes airfare for the scholar and their relatives in the case of residence in other Brazilian states or in other countries. Details regarding the Installation Allowance and more information about the scholarship can be found at www.fapesp.br/bolsas/pd (choose English version).

DISCLOSURE OF RESULTS

The final results of the selection process will be communicated to all candidates via email in February 2024 and subsequently posted on the NUPENS website (<https://www.fsp.usp.br/nupens/>).