

Three Fully-Funded PhD Researcher Vacancies (for 4 years) in the FamilyTies project, at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen (1.0 fte each)

University of Groningen

Organisation

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen (RUG) consists of around 95 members of staff and 95 PhD researchers. The Faculty focuses on high quality teaching and research in the fields of spatial planning, economic and cultural geography and demography. The research theme of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences is 'Wellbeing, Innovation and Spatial Transformation'. Our mission is to produce research which is world-leading, distinctive, and policy-relevant. With two bachelor and eight master programs, the faculty offers a wide range of courses within the field to about 900 students.

Project Description

The PhD researchers will work in the project 'Family ties that bind: A new view of internal migration, immobility and labour-market outcomes (FamilyTies)', led by Principal Investigator Clara H. Mulder and funded by an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council. The research team will further include two postdoc researchers and one staff member all based in Groningen, a postdoc and data analyst working in Brussels, and external international collaborators.

Project summary: Internal migration (long-distance moves within national borders) is generally assumed to be beneficial to individuals and households. The FamilyTies project has been designed to make a decisive contribution to a much more comprehensive explanation of internal migration and its labour-market outcomes than current, mainly economic, explanations have achieved thus far. It introduces a novel perspective on internal migration and immobility, which focuses on the role of family outside the household in deciding on whether and where to relocate, and which takes into account contemporary family complexity: the family ties perspective. The aim is to identify the role of family ties in internal migration, immobility and labour-market outcomes. The objectives are:

1. Identifying the role of family ties as a deterrent of migration and key determinant of immobility (PhD project 1).
2. Explaining migration towards family in relation to migration in other directions (PhD project 2).
3. Determining to what extent and for whom family-related motives drive migration and immobility (PhD project 3).
4. Unravelling how individual labour-market outcomes of migration versus immobility differ between (im)mobility related to family ties and (im)mobility due to other factors (Final part of all three PhD projects).

Geo-coded register and census data containing micro-links between family members will be used for Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium, as well as survey data for Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK, the USA and New Zealand. These will be analysed using advanced applications of hazard regression, logistic regression, OLS regression and structural equation models, which take into account the multilevel and multi-actor structure of the data and issues of endogeneity and self-selection. The project will provide major new insights into migration, immobility and labour-market outcomes, and input for better predictions and policies concerning migration, population growth and decline, ethnic segregation, labour-market flexibility and family support.

Qualifications

We are looking for candidates with:

- a Master degree in population studies, demography, human geography, economics, sociology or another relevant social science, to be completed before September 2017;
- excellent study results and CV;
- excellent quantitative research skills and proven experience in multivariate statistical analyses of large survey or register data sets;
- good writing skills and fluency in written and spoken English; experience in academic writing in English
- a keen interest in the topics to be investigated in the FamilyTies project, preferably demonstrated by previous work on similar topics;
- willingness to attend conferences abroad and to spend periods of several weeks working abroad with collaborating partners in the FamilyTies project;
- insider knowledge on at least one country under study in the project, based on having studied, lived and/or worked in that country;
- strong conceptual thinking;
- strong motivation, good communicative skills, proactive and independent work attitude;
- strong planning skills, ability to organize own work and related activities, ability to meet deadlines;
- a great curiosity and enthusiasm for scientific research.

We warmly invite you to apply for these vacancies, if you are interested and will have completed your Master degree **before September 2017**.

We ask you to submit:

- a motivation letter, including your ideas on the FamilyTies project and potential preference for one or more of the three PhD projects (see also project proposal);
- your CV, including a list of academic output (e.g. publications), the study results of your Master programme and the names and contact details of two referees

Candidates who are shortlisted will be asked to submit written work (e.g. MA thesis or papers) at a later stage.

Procedure

Interviews with the selection committee will take place on Friday June 2, 2017. We expect to notify you in the same week about whether you are invited for an interview.

Conditions of employment

The appointment of the PhD researcher is at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen. The PhD researcher will be a member of the Graduate School of Spatial Sciences. The PhD student will get the opportunity to participate in the Faculty's training program for PhD students and will draw up a personal training and supervision plan. The University of Groningen offers a salary of € 2191 gross per month in the first year of the appointment, rising to € 2801 gross per month in the fourth year of a full time position. The conditions of employment comply with the Collective Labour Agreement for the University of Groningen. This full time appointment as PhD researcher is temporary for four years. You will first be appointed for a period of 12 months. After a positive evaluation, the contract will be extended for the remaining part of the project.

Starting date is as soon as possible after the official start of the project, foreseen for September 1, 2017.

Information

The project proposal can be obtained from the secretaries of the Population Research Centre of the Faculty of Spatial Sciences, secr.demography@rug.nl. Further information about the project that cannot be derived from the proposal can be obtained from Prof.dr Clara H. Mulder, c.h.mulder@rug.nl.

You may apply for this position until 24 May / before 25 May 2017 Dutch local time by means of the application form (click on "Apply" below on the advertisement on the university website).

Acquisition is not appreciated.