

Information on Postgraduate Research Scholarship - Ref: 3E 2019 -14

Faculty: Engineering and Science **Department:** Food Science and Marketing Economics, NRI

Lead Supervisor: Professor Delia Grace Randolph

Project Title: Evaluation of interventions to improve food safety in informal markets of low- and middle-income countries

Project Description:

Foodborne diseases have a health burden comparable to malaria, HIV-AIDs or tuberculosis. Around 98% of this burden falls on low- and middle-income countries. The economic cost is over \$100 billion USD a year. The riskiest foods from a health perspective are also the most nutritious: milk, eggs, fish, meat and fresh vegetables. These fresh foods are mostly sold through the informal sector comprising markets, small shops, street vendors and providers of ready to eat foods. This informal sector has also been associated with the emergence of novel human diseases such as Covid-19.

Only recently is the health and economic burden of foodborne disease in LMIC starting to emerge. This evidence has stimulated a number of donors to invest in interventions to improve the safety of food in informal markets. Projects follow different approaches but often involve some or all of the following: introduction of new technologies; improvement of infrastructure; modernisation of retail; training of value chain actors; training of household food managers; improving legislation and regulation; greater enforcement of standards; provision of information to consumers; tackling specific hazards such as pork tapeworm.

This flourishing of projects addressing food safety in mass markets of low- and middle-income countries using different approaches and in different contexts provides an opportunity for comparative studies to assess the efficacy, equity, sustainability and scalability of different approaches to provide an evidence base that can guide policy and practice. The study would involve desk review, development of an evaluation framework, and visits to selected projects to collect data. Specific research questions include:

- To what extent are projects risk-based and address the foods and hazards which are most important for foodborne disease;
- What is the range of food safety interventions in the informal sector and what is the evidence-base for their selection;
- What is the evidence for efficacy and cost-benefit of selected interventions;
- What is the potential scalability and sustainability of effective interventions;
- Can interventions have adverse un-intended consequences such as disempowering women or reducing access to food.

Duration: **3 years, Full-Time Study**

Bursary available (subject to satisfactory performance):

Year 1: £15,009 Year 2: In line with UKRI rate Year 3: In line with UKRI rate

In addition the successful candidate will receive a waiver for tuition fees for the duration of their three-year scholarship. Students may be liable for tuition fees after this period.

Person Specification of Essential (E) or Desirable (D) requirements:	
Criteria:	E or D
Education and Training:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Class or 2nd class, First Division (Upper Second Class) Honours Degree or a taught Master's degree with a minimum average of 60% in all areas of assessment (UK or UK equivalent) in a relevant area to the proposed research project 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those whose first language is not English and/or if from a country where English is not the majority spoken language (as recognised by the UKBA), a language proficiency score of at least IELTS 6.5 (in all elements of the test) or an equivalent UK VISA and Immigration secure English Language Test is required, unless the degree above was taught in English and obtained in a majority English speaking country, e.g. UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc, as recognised by the UKBA. 	E
Experience & Skills:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous experience of undertaking research (e.g. undergraduate or taught masters dissertation) 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of food safety, public health, epidemiology, evaluation 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An understanding of food systems 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous research experience in food systems and food safety 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous experience of food systems fieldwork in UK and/or developing countries 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge/experience of risk analysis 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to work for weeks/months in developing countries 	E
Personal Attributes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands the fundamental differences between a taught degree and a research degree in terms of approach and personal discipline/motivation 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to, under guidance, complete independent work successfully 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrable interest in and enthusiasm for sustainability issues 	E
Other Requirements:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scholarship must commence before 1 August 2020 	E

Making an application:

Please read this information before making an application. Information on the application process is available at: <https://www.gre.ac.uk/research/study/apply/application-process>. Applications need to be made online via this link. **No other form of application will be considered.**

All applications **must include** the following information. **Applications not containing these documents will not be considered.**

- In the first part of the application select the following: : **Food Science and Marketing Economics (MPhil/PhD)**
- Scholarship Reference Number (Ref)**– included in the personal statement section together with your personal statement as to why you are applying
- a CV including 2 referees ***
- academic qualification certificates/transcripts and IELTS/English Language certificate if you are an international applicant or if English is not your first language or you are from a country where English is not the majority spoken language as defined by the UK Border Agency ***

**upload to the qualification section of the application form. Attachments must be a PDF format.*

Before submitting your application you are encouraged to liaise with the Lead Supervisor on the details above.

Closing date for applications: *midnight UTC on 24 May 2020*

For further information contact: Professor Delia Randolph (D.Randolph@cgiar.org)