

Terms of Reference for Cross-Sectional Nutrition/Microbiome Research Assistants

We are hiring 6 research assistants to conduct surveys on dietary intake and microbiome-affecting activities while collecting stool samples for microbiological analyses. You are part of the cross-sectional team who together will survey 250 people on each site within the maximum time frame of 1 month. You will be aided by the longitudinal team to complete the survey on time. You will work for 1 month in Zhemgang, 1 month in Laya and 2 months in Thimphu, but you will be hired for 6 months full-time for training purposes and as exact timings may change.

The RA will be part of the EATWELL project and will be also attached to the Himalayan Centre for Environmental Humanities at Royal Thimphu College (RTC).

Assignments:

- Work closely with the researchers of the respective site during the 4 months of actual data and sample collection between your joining date and the end of June 2025.
- Conducting face-to-face interview surveys including a 24-hour dietary recall.
- Input of survey data into the INDDX24 and Commcare apps.
- Collecting stool samples and transporting these to the respective health centers while strictly adhering to the protocols.
- Contacting the focal person in the event of any issues related to stool sample collection and cold chain.
- Organizing the timely collection of the stool samples and execution of the survey in agreement with the research participants.
- Aiding in the organization of logistics

Obligatory requirements:

- Excellent knowledge of the English and Dzongkhag languages.
- Experience in hiking at high altitude (above 3500 meters above sea level)
- Interest in the topic and people

Preferable requirements:

- Knowledge of the local language in Zhemgang and/or Laya.
- Training in health
- Experience with collecting survey data
- Prior knowledge of the community
- Commitment until 30 June 25.
- Flexible attitude and social skills

We offer:

- Training in dietary data collection
- Training in stool sample collection and protocols
- Experiences that will strengthen your CV
- Full-time position between your joining date and 30 June 2025
- A wage of 25.000BTN per month
- Coverage for expenses for travel, lodging and food