



**Position Title:**

Postdoctoral Scholar in Dietary Assessment Methods for Low-income countries

**Background:**

The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, established in 1981, is the only self-governing graduate and professional school of nutrition in North America. Its mission is to improve the nutritional well-being of people worldwide through the creation of new knowledge; the application and dissemination of evidence-based information; and the education and training of future leaders in the field.

This mission is fulfilled by bringing together experts from the areas of clinical nutrition, social and public policy, and biomedicine. Faculty at the school include biomedical scientists, economists, epidemiologists, nutritionists, physicians, political scientists and psychologists who focus on a myriad of issues with the common thread of nutrition and its role in fostering the growth and development of human populations.

An outstanding candidate is sought to work on the International Dietary Data Expansion ([INDDEX](#)) Project (Project Dates: Jan 2015-June 2019). Led by the Friedman School of Nutrition in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and other international experts, the INDDEX Project aims to facilitate low to lower-middle income countries' increased acquisition and use of high-quality, timely food and nutrient consumption data, which is needed to create more effective evidence-based decisions about agriculture, food, and nutrition policies and programs. The INDDEX Project has four overarching objectives:

1. Develop technologies to standardize and streamline the collection and analysis of individual-level dietary data;
2. Improve the design and use of the food consumption data collected in household consumption and expenditure surveys (HCES);
3. Demonstrate how to use 'fit-for-purpose' indicators and analyses appropriately from dietary intake data, HCES, and food balance data (FBS);
4. Develop guidance that will effectively communicate these scientific advancements and technological achievements to international stakeholders.

The INDDEX Project is implemented by Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy with funding from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The research program and training will be directed by Dr. Jennifer Coates, Associate Professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. The incumbent will be responsible for working with other INDDEX team members to implement a range of project activities with a primary focus on

objectives 1 and 4. The Postdoctoral Scholar will work collaboratively with the INDDEx team (specifically the Assistant Researchers, dietary assessment experts, and PI and Co-PI) to provide technical support to the contracted technology firm during the development of INDDEx24, a 24-hour dietary recall software to collect and process dietary data in low and lower-middle-income countries. S/he will also work with the team to design study protocols to test the feasibility and validity of INDDEx24. The Postdoctoral Scholar will assist with technical backstopping for field activities in Burkina Faso and Bangladesh including: testing of a beta version of INDDEx24, assisting with the implementation of the feasibility and validation studies, supporting government capacity development activities, and assisting with virtual working groups in additional countries.

The position will foster skills in initiating and maintaining positive relationships with local partners and facilitating their participation through subsequent stages of the project; developing and overseeing agreements with local partners to carry out field work; working with a team to plan and implement in-country workshops and local trainings on the collection and analysis of dietary data using tools developed under INDDEx; and developing guidance materials to support long-term capacity to collect and use dietary data. The incumbent may also assist with a set of virtual working groups the INDDEx team plans to develop in order to expand the project's reach to an additional five countries.

#### **Required Education, Experience and Skills**

- PhD in nutrition science or policy, public health, policy, and/or another related field;
- Knowledge of and experience using dietary assessment methods, specifically quantitative 24 hour recalls;
- Experience working with technologies for electronic data capture and/or mobile health; experience with data collection in low-income country contexts;
- Proficiency in data analysis programs (Such as SPSS, STATA, and/or Nvivo)
- Ability to write clearly and effectively for scientific and policy audiences and to carefully edit detailed scientific documents;
- Knowledge of international nutrition, food, and agriculture issues;
- Ability to communicate with clarity, sensitivity, diplomacy and tact with a range of international organizations, collaborating senior researchers, government stakeholders, and donor representatives;
- French proficiency (oral and written);
- Cultural sensitivity, patience, respect, and a helpful attitude toward resolving problems and answering questions are essential;
- Prior experience living or working within Sub-Saharan Africa and/or Southeast Asia.

The preferred applicant will also have experience coordinating nutrition efforts with governments; capacity to work on quantitative and qualitative analyses with minimal supervision; and familiarity with procedures to collect and analyze doubly-labeled water for validation study, including administration of prepared solutions, collection of urine/stool samples, safe storage and transportation of biological samples for laboratory analysis.

**Additional Information**

The position is for 2.5 years, with an anticipated start date of November 15, 2016 (a later start date may be negotiable). Although the person appointed will be based in Boston, MA, the applicant must be willing to travel occasionally to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and potentially other countries for conferences and meetings.

**Contact Information:**

Please send a cover letter and CV to the Project Manager, Cathleen Cissé, [Cathleen.Cisse@tufts.edu](mailto:Cathleen.Cisse@tufts.edu).