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That is why we, as a research university with a broad focus, consciously maintain a position at the heart of society. By dealing with current social problems and issues we lay the foundation for the future. We are a leading international research institution that offers high quality educational programmes.

We have a modern campus and always strive for a composition of students and staff that reflects our diverse society.

If you would like to contribute to the world of tomorrow, and are looking for the best environment for your own development, VU University Amsterdam is the place to be.

PhD-position Human Movement Sciences f/m

Movement strategy, variability and health risk assessment in manual work

For 1.0 fte

Vacancy number: 1.2012.00022

Come and join the Faculty of Human Movement Sciences of the VU university Amsterdam and TNO as a PhD student within the project “Movement strategy, variability and health risk assessment in manual work”.

The Faculty of Human Movement Sciences provides scientific education and performs research in the field of human movement. The Faculty’s scientific research is conducted within the Research Institute MOVE. MOVE covers both fundamental and applied research in human movement with a strong integrative signature.

The Faculty has a strong collaboration with TNO. In the collaborative research center Body@Work, the area of occupational health and ergonomics is addressed. This project is embedded within that collaboration and will comprise fundamental research as well as a strong focus on application of results in work safety regulations and work station design. In current methods to assess the health risk of manual work the variability in work load and the relationship with work station design parameters are minimally addressed.

This project involves two PhD projects aiming to fill in these gaps. Research questions concern (1) the impact of variability on health risk precursors and performance, and (2) movement strategies as related to work station design.

Tasks

The successful applicant will be appointed as a PhD student within a project entitled “Movement strategy, variability and health risk assessment in manual work”. You will study the impact of task variability in terms of frequency, load and posture on performance and on potential factors (e.g. muscle fatigue and subjective discomfort) preceding the development of musculoskeletal disorders in the upper extremity. This study will require biomechanical and physiological evaluations of the effects, both in the form of experiments and computer simulation.

You will design and conduct experiments, which will ultimately lead to a dissertation. Part of your work will be to contribute to the Faculty’s education program for 160 hours in the first and second year of the project.

Requirements

We are looking for highly motivated and creative candidates with a MSc in Human Movement Sciences or related fields with specific interest in ergonomics. Preferentially, you have experience in biomechanical modeling, experience in designing and performing experiments, experience in muscle physiology as well as excellent writing and presentation skills in English.

Further particulars

The appointment will be initially for 18 months. After satisfactory evaluation of the initial appointment it can be extended for a total duration of 4 years.

You can find information about our excellent fringe benefits of employment at www.workingatvu.nl like

- a wide range of sports facilities which staff may use at a modest charge;
- remuneration of 8,3% end-of-year bonus and 8% holiday allowance;
- generous contribution (70%) commuting allowance based on public transport;
- discounts on collective insurances (healthcare- and car insurance).

Salary

The salary will be in accordance with university regulations for academic personnel, and amounts €2.042,- gross per month in the first year up to €2.612,- in the fourth year (salary scale 85) based on a full-time employment.

Information

For additional information please contact: Prof. dr. H.E.J. Veeger

Phone number +31 (0)20 598 8480

E-mail: h.e.j.veeger@vu.nl

Website: www.move.vu.nl/members/dirk-jan-veeger/

Application

Before 1 March 2012 applicants are requested to write a letter in which they describe their abilities and motivation, accompanied by a curriculum vitae and one or two references. Written applications should be sent to:

VU University Amsterdam

Faculty of Human Movement Sciences

Attn.: mrs. drs. O.M. Jukema

Van der Boechorststraat 9, 1081 BT Amsterdam, The Netherlands

It is also possible to apply by e-mail to: vacature.fbw@vu.nl

Please mention the vacancy number in the e-mail header or at the top of your letter and on the envelope.

Any other correspondence in response to this advertisement will not be dealt with.