

**PhD Researcher SNSF (70%) - PhD Research Assistant (25%)
(total activity rate of 95%)
Health Law and Food Law Chair**

Starting date:	1 October 2026 or to be agreed
Duration of contracts:	PhD SNSF: 4 years PhD Research Assistant: 1 year, renewable (maximum 4 years)
Place of work:	University of Neuchâtel, Faculty of Law
Salary:	Standard conditions of the University of Neuchâtel

Research project:

The research project “Regulating Food Donation for Solidarity and Sustainability: Towards a Legal Framework for Reducing Food Waste”, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF/FNS), investigates the legal frameworks governing food donation in Switzerland at the intersection of environmental sustainability, public health, and social justice. While nearly one-third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted, a growing segment of the population faces food insecurity. The project maps the existing legal landscape, identifies the regulatory and institutional barriers to food donation, and develops innovative legal tools to promote food redistribution as a lever for sustainability and the right to adequate food. Combining doctrinal, normative, comparative, and empirical legal methods, it aims to position food law as a key instrument for sustainability and solidarity.

Your position as PhD Researcher SNSF (70%):

You will be part of an interdisciplinary research team. Under the supervision of Prof. Mélanie Levy, you will conduct legal research and analysis in the field of food law, with a focus on the regulation of food donation and food waste in Switzerland.

Your work will map the Swiss legal landscape governing food donation and food waste – including food safety, date labelling, liability, taxation, and waste-management rules at both federal and cantonal levels – and identify the legal uncertainties and regulatory obstacles that hinder safe and effective food donation. You will also carry out a comparative analysis of food donation frameworks in selected jurisdictions (e.g., France, Italy, and the United States).

Your work will lead to a doctoral thesis in Swiss food law and to academic publications. You will also be expected to participate in project meetings, engage with interdisciplinary collaborators and stakeholders, and contribute to outreach and policy-oriented activities.

Your position as PhD Research Assistant (25%):

- Teaching and exam support
- Research support
- Support for academic and administrative activities of the Health Law and Food Law Chair
- Supervision of students (written assignments and seminars, answering questions)

Your profile:

- Master's degree in Law (Swiss degree; admission requirements for the doctorate: in principle a general average of at least 4.75 and a grade of at least 5 in the Master's thesis)
- Strong interest in food law, environmental law, public health law, human rights law, and/or sustainability
- Interest in the interplay between law, sustainability, food security, and public health
- Excellent legal research and writing skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team
- Excellent command of written and spoken French and English; good knowledge of German
- Interest in empirical, socio-legal, and policy-oriented research is an asset
- Willingness to engage with legal reform and to collaborate with stakeholders (food banks, NGOs, retailers, public authorities)

We offer you:

- A fully funded PhD position (4 years) within an SNSF/FNS project
- A stimulating academic environment within the Health Law and Food Law Chair and access to a broad interdisciplinary and international research network
- The opportunity to pursue a doctoral thesis on cutting-edge questions at the intersection of law, sustainability, public health, and social justice
- Participation in national and international conferences and publication in peer-reviewed journals
- The possibility to engage with legal and policy actors, civil society organisations, food banks, and retailers
- Integration into the doctoral programme of the University of Neuchâtel and support for further training and career development
- Attractive working conditions and a dynamic, inclusive academic culture

Application / Contact

Please submit your application as a single PDF file, including 1) a cover letter describing your interest and motivation to become part of our SNSF/FNS project; 2) CV; 3) diplomas of academic degrees; 4) a writing sample (e.g., paper, essay or part of MA-thesis); 5) names and contact details of at least two academic referees, by **17 August 2026** to Prof. Mélanie Levy (melanie.levy@unine.ch).

For inquiries please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Mélanie Levy.

We value diversity and encourage applications from groups that are under-represented in law.