

Internship at RIVM on risk assessment of micro- and nanoplastics

Level: Master

Start: September/October 2023

Duration: 6 months

Project form: literature review, interview

Supervision: Susan Wijnhoven

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Micro- and nanoplastics (MNPs) are everywhere in the environment resulting in exposure in humans. Knowledge on the potential of these MNP to cross human barriers (e.g. the intestine, the placental barrier) and their potential effects (at certain exposure concentrations) is rapidly increasing. However, as a result of gaps in knowledge, reliability and relevance issues of existing studies and methodological challenges, it remains largely unknown whether exposure to MNPs results in human health risks. Within the Netherlands [MOMENTUM Microplastics and Human Health Consortium](#), the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) works towards the development of a reliable and relevant risk assessment of MNPs. As part of this work, the RIVM is looking for a MSc student with a special interest in human health and MNPs that can conduct literature studies to answer critical research questions relevant to the risk assessment and (potentially) conduct interviews/conduct questionnaire studies with Dutch and/or international experts with the aim of mapping the current state-of-knowledge and needs for further research and (policy) action. Through this work, the intern has a direct impact on the future direction of MNP research and policy in the Netherlands. Further, through (optional) interviews/questionnaire studies with MNP experts and MOMENTUM project meetings, the intern has a great opportunity to develop of a broad network within MNP research community in the Netherlands. The duration and start date of the internship are flexible, but ideally would start in September/October 2023 and last for about 4-8 months. For further questions and to apply for this internship, please get in touch with Susan Wijnhoven (susan.wijnhoven@rivm.nl).