

## **Department of Community Health Sciences (MDCH) Professional Development and Internship Program**

### **Internship Objectives and Overview**

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- Create opportunities for graduate thesis-based students to develop professional competencies through experiential learning opportunities across diverse sectors

#### **Student Profiles**

- MSc thesis-based and PhD students in MDCH who have completed or nearly completed all course requirements
  - Students will have foundational skills in epidemiology and biostatistics, as well as some specialization specific coursework
  - Specializations include Biostatistics, Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Epidemiology, Population and Public Health, Health Services Research, Health Economics and Medical Education
- Potential of inclusion of doctoral students from adjacent programs such as nursing, education, sociology etc. in future cohorts

#### **Length of Opportunity**

- Minimum 12 weeks
  - Start date in January 2024 (typically)
  - Intent is for PT opportunities (at appx 20-25 hours a week) recognizing the commitments that thesis-based students have to their research
- Opportunity for longer placements into the spring and summer terms for interested students and organizations

#### **Compensation**

- Paid opportunities – compensation through partner organization
  - Rate of pay is dependent on partner organization norms

#### **Matching Process**

- MDCH will curate a small list of organizations who are interested in a graduate intern
  - Organization would provide the following information:
    - Proposed start and end date of the placement
    - Project or position description
    - Weekly time commitment of placement; length of placement
    - Compensation information

- Preferences for student experience and skills
- Students will be provided with condensed job postings for each organization in late October 2023
- Students will then identify the organization they are interested in and apply to the organization through the identified manager or contact
- Organization can move through their own selection process
- Confirmed student placements by end of November 2023/early December 2023
- Learning objectives will be determined collaboratively with the organization, student intern, and program director

### **Evaluation Process**

- As part of the pilot program, we will be evaluating the internships within the context of a research study
- The identified supervisor of the intern will be asked to participate in one mid-point evaluation meeting in March 2024
  - This meeting will include the student intern and the program director to discuss the progress of the internship
  - The internship supervisor will also be asked to fill out an evaluation form at the end of the internship
- The internship will also be evaluated from the perspective of the student intern, and their academic supervisor