Concept Note
Master of Public Health (MPH) Practicum Placements

Overview

Length: Minimum 12 weeks (May-July), Maximum 16-weeks (May – Aug)

Hours: Approximately 420 hours over the placement period (35 hours per week)

Format: In-person, remote, or hybrid

Compensation: Placements may be paid, unpaid, or supported through a stipend or honorarium

Supervision: Identify a supervisor who can meet with the student weekly, support the Learning Contract, and complete midpoint and final performance evaluation surveys.

Funding Opportunity: Organizations offering paid placements may be eligible for Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) funding through BioTalent Canada, covering up to 50% of student wages.

MPH Student Skills & Competencies

Through coursework, case-based learning, and applied projects, students develop the following competencies:

Public Health Knowledge	Epidemiology, population health and health equity
	Program planning and implementation
	Health promotion, policy and health systems analysis
Data Analytics, Research and Evaluation	Rapid reviews and evidence synthesis
	Biostatistics, data analysis and interpretation
	Data visualization and reporting (including R, SPSS, SAS)
	Quantitative and qualitative research methods, survey design, and program evaluation
Leadership & Collaboration	Project management and strategic thinking
	Stakeholder engagement and knowledge translation
	Communication, teamwork and cultural humility

For detailed course descriptions, please see the full MPH course listings.

Project Examples:

- Analyzing health, survey, and administrative datasets
- Developing dashboards, data visualizations, and performance indicators
- Supporting program evaluation and quality improvement initiatives
- Conducting health equity analyses, environmental scans, and evidence syntheses
- Preparing epidemiologic profiles, community health assessments and situation analysis
- Performing health policy and health services analyses
- Developing health promotion and knowledge translation products
- Facilitating stakeholder engagement and consultation activities

How to Host or Recruit an MPH Student

Option 1: Propose a Practicum Project (solely for Western MPH Students)

Ideal for organizations with a specific project or strategic priority that could benefit from dedicated graduate-level support.

Host Requirements

- Identify a supervisor and project details
- Submit a Practicum Project Proposal Form
- For unpaid or stipend-based placements, we will facilitate the Affiliation Agreement process, as required.

Recruitment & Matching Process

- **January:** Practicum opportunities shared with MPH students.
- **February:** Students apply and rank their preferred placements.
- **Mid-February to March:** Organizations review applications and may conduct informational meetings or interviews.
- **March to April:** Placements are finalized.
- **April:** Students meet with their supervisor and faculty advisor to develop a learning contract.
- **May to July/August:** Students complete their practicum placement.

If this timeline does not align with your organization's needs, please contact us to discuss potential alternatives.

Option 2: Share an Existing Posting

If your organization already has a publicly posted summer student position, internship, or project opportunity, we would be pleased to share it directly with our MPH students.

Please send:

- A link to the posting or a copy of the job description
- The application deadline
- Application instructions (e.g., recruitment portal, email submission, or via Western Connect application system)

Students apply directly through your preferred recruitment process, and all hiring decisions remain with your organization.

Questions?

Please contact Diana Milanovic at dmilanov@uwo.ca or 519-661-2111 x 86307