



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
15 KING'S COLLEGE CIRCLE, TORONTO, ON M5S 3H7
www.uc.utoronto.ca

Date

Re: PHS400 Public Health Practicum – Student Placements

To whom it may concern,

You are being approached by an undergraduate Public Health student from the University of Toronto about the possibility of participating in our practicum placement course. This letter of introduction provides information about the Public Health program and the practicum placement, in the hope that you will consider participating.

The Public Health Undergraduate Program at University College

Public Health is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program offered by University College, part of the University of Toronto. In Public Health, students critically examine the factors that shape the health of individuals and populations. Public Health brings insights from across the social sciences, sciences and humanities together in a stimulating environment that challenges students to think about health in new ways. Our emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and critical thinking, as well as the exceptional quality of our student cohort, means that our students are well prepared to tackle new challenges and solve problems creatively.

The Public Health Practicum

Upper-year students in Public Health have the opportunity to undertake an individual field placement with a Public Health researcher or administration professional as part of their course work. The activities that the student can undertake for the practicum are not pre-determined and are decided by the host organization and student. However, the practicum should involve work that:

- Requires approximately one day's work (8 hours) per week at the organization
- The student undertakes on a volunteer basis, for course credit, not for pay
- Benefits the student by developing skills and/or applied knowledge relevant to Public Health
- Enhances rather than replaces the work of paid employees of the organization or institution.

Students are expected to spend approximately 8 hours per week in their placement activities between September and mid-March (not including the winter holiday and reading breaks).

Practicum Supervision Responsibilities

When considering taking on a Public Health student for a practicum, it is important to consider:

- Your organization's ability to provide a safe working environment to the student, and to assign a supervisor to the student to provide ongoing support and direction
- The supervisor's willingness to assist in evaluating the student, by filling out our evaluation forms – these will be an important component of the student's final grade.

We hope that you will consider hosting one of our students through the Public Health practicum. The process begins by discussing possible work with the student who has approached you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Colleen Dockstader

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