

University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Practicum Information Session MPH Health Promotion September 19, 2017

Sarah Ko, M.Sc.OT.

Practicum Placement and Professional Development Officer

Practicum.dlsph@utoronto.ca

416-978-8844, Office 674



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Goals of this presentation

- Introduce the purpose of the practicum
- Outline the requirements of the practicum
- Outline roles and responsibilities
- Provide information so that you may succeed academically and develop professionally



The Practicum is a Unique Learning Opportunity

- It allows you to:
 - Satisfy the academic requirements for the MPH program
 - *Apply* classroom learning (*Forest beyond the trees!*)
 - Be *engaged* in a planned, supervised and evaluated experience
 - Meet your academic goals and follow your professional interests



Unique Learning Opportunity

- Gain insight into your own personal abilities and aptitudes
- Build your self-confidence
- Develop communication, team-building and problem-solving skills
- Improve your employability by gaining work experience
- Gain new perspective of how an agency operates



Supervisor comments

- “(The student) was able to apply her skills in critical thinking and analysis to all of her work activities. Her particular contribution was building knowledge and understanding of key HP concepts within the unit staff. She also helped to ensure that we integrated theoretical concepts into our practical work.” – Supervisor from York Region
- “(The student) has contributed significantly to the ongoing work of the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. She has taken on a number of projects, working independently with minimal supervisor. Her work is of excellent quality and she has demonstrated both depth and breadth in demonstrating multiple competencies relevant for a public health practitioner” – Supervisor from National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools, McMaster University
- “(The student) was essential part of our EmperiX study team and contributed very much to CIDRZ’s research. She effectively catalyzed data management activities for the EmperiX study and helped build local capacity in data management for 2 data associates and 1 research assistant.” – Supervisor from Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia



Student comments

- “Major accomplishments included learning how to conduct qualitative research and being able to apply my knowledge of theories and frameworks most commonly used in qualitative research. I trained myself on Nvivo software, created a codebook, coded 47 interviews, wrote summaries, extracted major themes, calculated two Cohen’s Kappa values. I also conducted multiple literature searches on traumatic brain injury. Major products include bi-weekly presentations to the Injury Prevention Team as well as a manuscript that is in the process of being submitted to a peer-reviewed public health journal”
– From Summer 2017 student, Injury Prevention Research Office, St. Michael’s Hospital



Student comments

- “Key learning in health promotion practice included the application of a process evaluation to assist with future program planning and implementation strategies.” – From Summer 2017 student, Peterborough Public Health
- “I consistently applied a population health and systems-level approach through the analysis of health issues throughout my practicum. I designed and implemented evaluation plans throughout the summer.” – From Summer 2017 student, CAMH



Prerequisites

- CHL5004H Introduction to Public Health Sciences
 - CHL5801H Health Promotion I
 - CHL5803H Health Promotion II
 - CHL5220H Introduction to Quantitative Research
 - CHL5221H Introduction to Qualitative Research
 - CHL5110H Theory and Practice of Program Evaluation
 - CHL5105H Social Determinants of Health
-
- All the required courses in 1st year



Community partners recruit students because...

- You bring new energy and ideas
- Are up to date with new technology and classroom theories
- They need help during the summer/winter periods
- They are “screening” for future potential employees
- They want to strengthen the partnership with DLSPH



Practicum placement officer responsibilities

- Provide a list of placements to students in January
- Assist the student in selecting their first placement
- Ensure practicum supervisors are aware of their roles and responsibilities
- Assist in completing the planning framework, as necessary
- Assist in determining if practicum objectives/ proposed deliverables meet required program criteria
- Collect and evaluate forms and final package
- Available for meetings before, during or after placements with students and/or supervisors



Student responsibilities

- Contact potential preceptors in a professional manner with your CV and cover letter; be prepared to interview for a position
- Ensure the Practicum forms (beginning, interim and final) are submitted to the practicum placement officer in a timely manner
- Enroll for practicum credits
- Ensure you have read and abide by the University's Standards for Professional Practice Behavior
- Comply with policies and procedures of placement organization
- Maintain communication with practicum placement officer
- Represent DLSPH!



MPH Health Promotion Practicum Final Checklist

- To be submitted:
 - Practicum Proposal form
 - Confirmation of Practicum form (online)
 - Planning Framework
 - HP Competency Toolkit – pre and post practicum
 - Interim Evaluation (student)
 - Interim Evaluation (supervisor)
 - Amendment form, if applicable (student)
 - Final Evaluation (student)
 - Final Evaluation (supervisor)
 - Biweekly Journal entries
 - Practicum narrative report
 - Practicum Cover Letter and Abstract (1/2 page)
 - PowerPoint poster
- The practicum package is reviewed by the Practicum placement officer and the MPH Health Promotion Program Directors
- Grade: Credit/ No Credit



Practicum products that you may complete during practicum

A few examples:

- Data measurement tool
- Literature review and preparation of manuscript/printed materials
- Workshop outlines
- Powerpoint presentations and reports that summarized large volume of data
- Needs assessment
- Evaluation framework
- Producing draft grant guidelines to support launch of a new grant program



University of Toronto Student Placement Agreements

- As of 2014, the University of Toronto requires a student placement agreement to be in place with the host organization prior to a student starting an **UNPAID** placement.
- No agreement, no placement.
- List of organizations with agreements in place with UT on Blackboard.



Resources

- Practicum manual
- Blackboard site (access granted December 2017)
- Practicum placement officer – website
<http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/programs/mpH-health-promotion-and-epidemiology-practicum/> (past practicum abstracts, 2017 summer practicum report)
- NETWORK! Talk to colleagues, guest lecturers, faculty members. Go to events. Ask questions. Follow-up.
- Career Centre



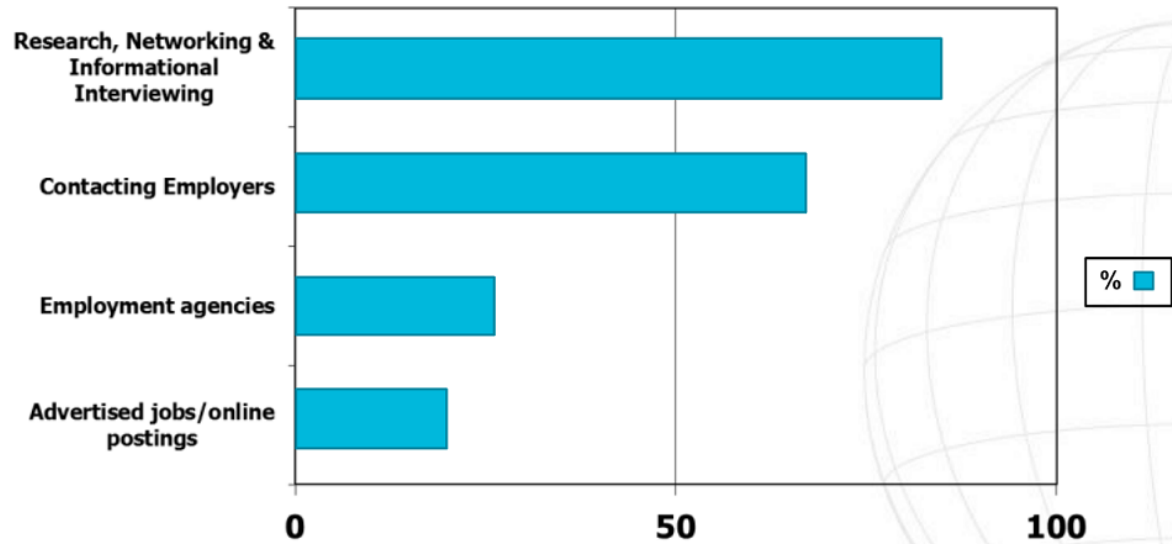
Chapter 2 - Full-time Work



Slide Title	Duration	Status
Chapter 2 - Full-time Work	00:29	
Workshop Features	00:10	
Workshop Objectives	00:18	
Work search process	01:19	✓
Work search process.....	00:46	✓
How do people find jobs...	00:47	
Work Search Strategies	00:46	
Work Search Strategies	00:37	
Work Search Strategies	00:27	
Next steps and Resourc...	00:44	

Find 03:48 / 06:31 Minutes Clear

How do people find jobs?



Survey Data: Adapted from a variety of surveys including the annual Career Centre Recent Graduate Employment Surveys; Richard Bolles "What Colour Is Your Parachute?" 2011; and Canadian Labour Market Information)

CAREERCENTRE | 214 College Street, Toronto, ON M5T 2Z9 | www.careers.utoronto.ca



Examples of Past Practicum Sites

- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Region of Peel, Public Health
- The Hospital for Sick Children
- Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
- Centre for Urban Health Solutions St. Michael's Hospital
- Toronto Public Health
- Northwestern Health Unit
- Canadian Public Health Association
- University of Toronto



Examples of Past Practicum Projects

- Research project on microbial food safety risk assessment
- Monitor and report on chemotherapy consenting practices
- Studying deaths among adults who are homeless and recently housed
- Overseeing production of scientific publication on dog bite injuries to humans
- Conducting literature reviews and analysis on public health topics
- Research on methods to estimate small area cancer incidence and risk factors
- Systematic review/meta analysis on alcohol epidemiology in India



Professional Development

- Graduate Professional Skills workshops:
<http://utoronto.us9.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7a732ca3c6a1dd3fb4992dede&id=b73cbc8c0d>
- Professional Development Fridays
- Career Centre workshops: resume/ CV & cover letters, networking, interview techniques



Enrolling on ROSI

- First practicum:
 - 16 weeks FT (~560hrs) = 2.0 credits (CHL6010Y & CHL6012Y)
- Second practicum (optional):
 - 12 weeks FT (~420hrs) = 1.5 credits (CHL6020Y, CHL6021H)
- Trouble shooting: Vanessa Anievas - v.anievas@utoronto.ca



Words of wisdom

- Read up on agencies/ researchers/organizations you might be interested in working with, early!
- Set specific objectives/goals in your planning framework
- Discuss your objectives and goals with your supervisor before you go on site
- Make arrangements early so that you have a smooth, productive practicum
- When in doubt, do not hesitate to get in contact with me, the earlier the better – I'm here to support you!



Questions? Concerns? Contact me

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