McGill’s mandatory Master of Science in Public Health (MScPH) practicum project lets you apply what you have learned in the classroom in a supervised practice or research setting. You will contribute to an organization’s mandate, and address a public health problem of interest to you. You will also develop skills as public health practitioner or researcher.

Practicums are available provincially, nationally, and internationally.

“The practicum really allowed me to apply both statistical and epidemiological concepts in carrying out my assigned project.”
Farmanara ‘17

Requirements

- A single project that addresses a public health issue.
- Supervised by a qualified, on-site public health expert.
- 14-16 full-time weeks in the summer after the first year of coursework.

Objectives

- Develop interpersonal, professional and communication skills.
- Build the Public Health Core Competencies.
- Apply graduate-level teachings.
- Grow your network of professional contacts for mentorship and job searches.

Practicum Support:
Annie Duchesne
Practicum Coordinator
P: 514-398-2236
E:practicum.eboh@mcgill.ca
Choosing a Supervisor

The practicum supervisor needs to have expertise in the project area, experience and status within the organization, and an interest and competence in supervising and mentoring. They must be able to guide and support at the graduate level.

“I really appreciated the collaborative working relationship with my supervisor.”
Steele ‘15

“My supervisor] was very helpful and encouraging, with the right amount of support and flexibility.”
Walz ‘17

“Both my supervisors were excellent leaders. They gave good feedback and offered many opportunities to try new experiences.”
Duchesne ‘13

It is important to choose someone who fits well with your personality and interests. One way to do this is to conduct informational interviews with several potential candidates.
Practicum Proposal

The proposal document is created in collaboration with your practicum supervisor. It describes:

- Host organization details
- Supervisor details and contact information
- Start and end date of practicum
- Host organization expectations
- Project activities and objectives
- The public health issue addressed
- Your learning objectives
- Availability of funding/stipend

Your final Practicum Proposal must be approved by both your supervisor and the Program Advisor.

The deadline to submit the Practicum Proposal is:

- March 1 – international placements
  OR
- April 1 – local/national placements

Remember to seek ethics approval, if required, for practicum projects.
Search for a Practicum

The key to a good experience is to start your search early – at least 3 months before the Practicum Proposal deadline.

The MScPH Program Office will circulate practicum postings and suggest organizations but you can also identify your own opportunities.

We are here to support you but it is your responsibility to identify, arrange and complete a practicum that meets program requirements.

Funding

McGill’s Master of Science in Public Health Department encourages placement sites to offer stipends to students. However we recognize that not all organizations are able to do so.

We can offer some departmental funding to MScPH students that are not otherwise compensated for their practicum work.
SKILLS
What professional skills do you seek?
Example: I want to build skills in program evaluation.

COMPETENCIES
Which Public Health Core Competencies would you like to strengthen?
Example: 3.6 - Evaluate an action, policy or program health.

INTEREST
Which area of public health interests you the most?
Example: Homelessness and health.

Deciding On a Project

Example Project
Evaluate the effect of the Housing First program on the short-term health of formerly homeless residents.
Examples of Past Placements

- African Population Health Research Centre - Nairobi
- Canadian Public Health Association - Ottawa
- Centre for Science and the Environment - New Delhi
- Public Health Agency of Canada - Ottawa
- World Health Organization - Geneva
- United Nations Population Fund - Haiti
- McGill University Health Centre - Montreal
- Hospital for Sick Children - Toronto
- BC Centre for Disease Control - Vancouver
- Cree Health Board and Social Services of James Bay - Chisasibi

Jenny worked at Cancer Care Ontario’s Prevention and Surveillance Unit where she helped to assess cancer burden. The results of her analysis appeared in the CCO annual report.

Mike worked for World Bank in Pretoria, South Africa. His practicum focused on reducing the incidence of tuberculosis among mine workers, laborours and peri-mining communities.

Samia worked at the Direction de santé publique where she helped to evaluate an early education intervention program for toddlers.
At the host organization, you will have the opportunity to work on your approved project. This is also your chance to build a network and develop your professional skills. Take advantage by asking questions and remaining in close contact with your supervisor.

### Responsibilities

#### Student
- Meet with your supervisor on a regular basis (at least weekly).
- Work on the approved practicum project.
- Conduct activities to meet learning needs.
- Meet professional standards of conduct.
- Complete 450 practicum hours (at minimum).
- Complete the Final Evaluation at the end of the practicum.

#### Supervisor
- Provide on-site workspace and introduce the student to the working environment.
- Go through the project timeline, tasks and goals with the student.
- Meet with the student on a regular basis (at least weekly).
- Provide clear communication around project expectations and offer consistent, timely feedback.
- Complete the Final Evaluation form at the end of the practicum.

If you experience any issues during your practicum, the department is here to help. Please contact the Practicum Coordinator.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Key Dates and Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September-January</td>
<td>- Start searching for practicum opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>March/April</td>
<td>- Practicum Proposal due</td>
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<td>- March 1 for International practica</td>
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<td>- April 1 for Canadian practica</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>- Begin practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>- Practicum deliverables due</td>
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<td>- Final Evaluation due (student)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Final Evaluation due (supervisor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>- Practicum report due (approx. 20 pages)</td>
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<td>December onward</td>
<td>- Practicum presentations generally begin in the winter semester of the second year</td>
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The practicum course is evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis.
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EDUCATION
Preparing health professionals and scientists to excel

RESEARCH
Exploring together to break new ground

HEALTH CARE
Collaborating to ensure healthier communities