Internship Search – Graduate Students

Internships are short-term work positions, usually from 3 – 6 months, that students may undertake during pursuit of their academic degrees. At the Tulane School of Public Health, the majority of the students are required to have an internship related to their field before they graduate. These are called practicum and the student’s faculty advisor must approve the student’s selection. In addition to required practicum, some students undertake internships for no academic credit, but just for the extra experience it provides them and to strengthen their resumes for their post-graduate job search.

CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNSHIPS:

There are no definite rules when employers offer internships. Lengths of internships vary depending on the employer’s needs and may be offered at any time of the year. Some are paid; some are not paid. Some, particularly international ones, may just cover the intern’s basic expenses of travel, housing and medical insurance.

Some employers have well-established internship programs which repeat every year. Some offer internships on an ongoing basis over the year or on an as-needed basis. Finally, some employers have no internship program at all, yet if asked by a student, will be amenable to hiring an intern, particularly if money is not involved.

HOW TO FIND AN INTERNSHIP:

1) Talk to your faculty advisor, professors and other students for suggestions and leads. Network with alumni who may be working in an organization of interest or may have advice. Alumni contacts may be found on our LinkedIn group by joining at http://tulane.edu/publichealth/students/career_alumni.cfm.

2) Join the Tulane SPHJOBS-L listserv to receive announcements of opportunities directly sent to your email. Email Kathy Ball at kball@tulane.edu for instructions to subscribe.

3) Visit the Career Services information on the Tulane School of Public Health website at tulane.edu/publichealth/students/career_services.cfm. Here you will find Public Health Career Resources on the Internet with a category for Internship links, containing over 150 established programs. Other employers listed under Domestic or International Organizations may also list internships on their websites.

4) Identify employers in which you are interested. Then be proactive. Contact them to find out if they are willing to have a student become involved and assist with a project or research. Students have been able to find their own internships this way. Visit the web page for many listings of employers by category including a category for LOCAL public health organizations or activities - tulane.edu/publichealth/students/career_services.cfm.

5) Visit 1) the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) employment database at www.publichealthjobs.net, 2) the American Public Health Association database at careers.apha.org/search.cfm or 3) the Emory SPH Public Health Employment Connection at cfusion.sph.emory.edu/PHEC/phec.cfm to search for internships that may be listed.

Always follow the instructions for applying for an internship exactly as listed in the announcement. Remember, even if an employer does not have an internship advertised, but is a strong match for your interests, you may still contact the organization by phone or email to inquire if they would be willing to have you assist in their program as an intern.