**World Health Organization Internship Application &**

**Funding Request to the Colorado School of Public Health at CSU**

The Colorado School of Public Health at CSU has established relationships with the Headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO), based in Geneva, Switzerland, in the departments stated below. Additionally, the CSU program supports student experiences elsewhere within the WHO at its multiple locations.

Students who are offered an internship position with the WHO are eligible to receive a stipend of up to $2,500 (as money is available; first come first serve) to assist with travel and living expenses. The WHO provides no financial assistance to interns and the positions are unpaid.

**Apply Through CSU Public Health Program**

Students who wish to apply for an internship opportunity in one of the departments that have agreed to host CSU MPH students should complete the *WHO Internship & Funding Application* below and provide the requested documentation. Selected students will then be recommended to our contacts at the WHO for review. A recommendation from our program to the WHO is not a guarantee that the student will be offered an internship position; and not all students who submit an application will be recommended to the WHO. Applications will be reviewed based the following criteria: academic record; alignment of student interest with the specified department(s); past experience related to the work being done in the selected department(s); faculty recommendation.

The application and required documentation should be submitted electronically to Kendra Bigsby at [kendra.bigsby@colostate.edu](mailto:kendra.bigsby@colostate.edu). All materials should be typed. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, but there may not always be an open internship position at the WHO. Applications should be received at least 5 months prior to student’s desired departure date.

**Apply Through WHO**

Students are welcome to apply for additional opportunities with the WHO in other departments across the world. You can learn more about the WHO Internship Programme here: <http://www.who.int/employment/internship/interns/en/>.

Students who are accepted into a WHO internship that they obtained on their own are also eligible to receive this funding. To request funding after an internship offer has been made by the WHO please complete sections 1-6 and 8 of the *WHO Internship & Funding Application* (section 7 is not required). You DO NOT need to submit the additional application documentation. Only the sections listed above. This form should then be submitted electronically to Kendra Bigsby at [kendra.bigsby@colostate.edu](mailto:kendra.bigsby@colostate.edu).

**WHO Internship & Funding Application Form**

1. First & Last Name:
2. CSU ID #: CU ID #:
3. MPH Concentration:
4. Desired term and year for internship:

Fall of \_\_\_\_\_\_ Spring of \_\_\_\_\_\_ Summer of \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Will this count toward academic credit: \_\_No \_\_Practicum \_\_Capstone
2. Number of credits completed by start of internship:
3. GPA in Colorado School of Public Health (**include unofficial transcript from CU Denver**):
4. WHO Department of Interest (*see descriptions below; students may select up to* ***2*** *departments to apply to, and will* ***provide rank order of #1 and #2***):

\_\_ Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC):

\_\_ Global Surveillance and Risk Assessment

\_\_ HIV/AIDS

\_\_ Infection Prevention and Control (Clean Care is Safer Care)

\_\_ Influenza Surveillance and Monitoring

\_\_ Leishmaniasis Control Programme

\_\_ Nutrition for Health and Development

\_\_ Zoonoses and Epidemiology (Department of Global Capacities)

\_\_ OTHER that student obtained on their own (please enter requested information):

Department Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Geographic location of student site:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preceptor name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Required application documentation for WHO opportunities through the CSU Public Health Program

1. Typed application form
2. Resume showing public health experience and experience related to the selected WHO department(s)
3. Unofficial transcript from CU Denver showing courses, grades, and GPA in the Colorado School of Public Health
4. Letter of recommendation from a Colorado School of Public Health or CSU faculty member to be sent from the faculty member to Kendra Bigsby at [kendra.bigsby@colostate.edu](mailto:kendra.bigsby@colostate.edu); letters of recommendation submitted by the student will not be accepted
5. Personal statement of no more than 500 words outlining the student’s interest and experience relevant to the department(s) selected, and how the internship would help the student to achieve their career goals upon completion of their MPH degree. If selecting more than one department students may submit one essay for each department.

**General WHO Intern Guidelines**

WHO rules require that candidates:

i. are at least 20 years of age on the date of application;

ii. are enrolled in a course of study at a university or equivalent institution leading to a formal qualification (graduate or postgraduate). It is also possible to apply if the applicant will be completing the internship within six months of graduation.

iii. have completed three years of full-time studies at a university or equivalent institution prior to commencing the assignment;

iv. are fluent in at least one of the working languages of the office of assignment;

v. are not related to a staff member as defined in Staff Rule 410.3 (e.g. son/daughter, brother/sister or mother/father);

vi. have not previously participated in WHO's Internship Programme;

vii. hold a valid passport of a WHO Member State (as a matter of policy, and for the avoidance of any international law issue, including with Member States and Host States, candidates for internship who do not hold a valid passport from a WHO Member State will not be considered); and

viii. if resident in Switzerland, hold a valid residence permit.

**WHO Department Internship Descriptions**

**Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)**

<http://www.who.int/fctc/text_download/en/>

The WHO FCTC is the first international treaty addressing a public health matter. It is also the first treaty developed under the auspices of WHO, and it is the first time of the WHO’s history that the organization used its mandate to develop international treaties. Since its inception in 2005, it has succeeded in keeping tobacco control high on the global agenda, and saving lives and improving global health during the process.

Article 21 of WHO FCTC requires Parties to submit, on a regular basis, reports on the implementation of the Convention. The Convention Secretariat is responsible for the management of the reporting process, providing assistance to Parties so that they fulfill their reporting obligations, as well as analysis and dissemination. The team also conducts so-called “needs assessment” missions in the countries that request such assistance, through which, the Secretariat evaluates the implementation of the Convention, and identifies gaps and needs in implementation. Further, it works with the countries to address those needs and fill those gaps.

Potential internship duties may include: data management; review of national tobacco control laws; data analysis and reporting on the global progress in implementation of tobacco control laws; development within existing reporting instrument and collection processes; preparation of fact sheets; editing quarterly newsletter; management of Party reports and communication with Parties; research and compile information for the database of available resources; preparation of needs assessment missions and information collection pertaining to tobacco control in multiple countries; matching gaps with available resources.

**Global Surveillance and Risk Assessment**

The Global Surveillance and Risk Assessment team (RAS) is part of the Global Preparedness, Surveillance and Response Operations department (PSR). PSR is covering the whole cycle of event detections, risk assessment, verification and response as well as preparedness and capacity building under the International Health Regulations (IHR).

Out team RAS has as the following main functions:

* Identification of potential public health threats
* Verification of potential public health threats under the IHR
* Risk Assessment of public health threats in coordination with the WHO Regional and Country Offices and subject matter experts.
* Management of the identified events (e.g. outbreaks)
* Communication on events through different channels (public, networks and with all National Focal Points of the WHO member states)

In order to enhance the event based surveillance WHO has developed an electronic platform, called the Hazard Detection and Risk Assessment System (HDRAS), allowing to combine and monitor a wide range of information sources (news media, social media/blogs, specialized news aggregators) relevant for the detection and monitoring of public health events in one platform. The first version of HDRAS is currently pilot tested at WHO Headquarters.

Interns who serve as part of the RAS team will support the identification, monitoring and follow up of potential health threats by:

* using the platform HDRAS;
* carrying out an initial short risk assessment of the identified potential health threat;
* discussing with the team any necessary follow up actions;
* following up on new or ongoing health threats in coordination with the WHO Regional Offices and technical experts units at WHO .

Interns are needed year round and applications can be accepted as late as the semester before the student plans to begin the internship.

**HIV/AIDS**

<http://www.who.int/hiv/en/>

Globally only 51% of people living with HIV know of their status. The WHO Department of HIV/AIDS is part of the Cluster for HIV, TB, Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (HTM). The department includes the Global Hepatitis Programme and is led by Dr Gottfried Hirnschall. It consists of the following units: the Global Hepatitis Programme, HIV Treatment and Care; Key Populations and Prevention; Strategic Information and Planning; and Programme Development and Implementation.

The Department of HIV/AIDS and the Global Hepatitis Programme provide evidence-based, normative and policy support to Member States in scaling up HIV and hepatitis treatment, care and prevention services to enable a comprehensive and sustainable response to these epidemics in developing countries. The work of the Department is guided by WHO's global strategies for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. Currently, WHO is undertaking development of new forward-looking strategies with partners and stakeholders to facilitate work in the post-2015 agenda.

Students interested in HIV/AIDS from a healthcare perspective, including issues of treatment, access to care, and health care equity, will find many opportunities with this department. Interns are accepted year round and summer opportunities may be more difficult to obtain due to WHO staff travel schedules. Applications can be submitted as late as the semester before the student anticipates beginning their internship.

\*\*Students who are interested in HIV/AIDS prevention education (as opposed to healthcare and treatment) should send an email to the practicum coordinator including a resume and statement of interest. This information can be shared with our WHO contact for possible opportunities with partner agencies (examples: UNICEF, UNAIDS). Please note that internships with these other entities are not eligible for the WHO-specific funding and would need to apply for the general practicum/capstone funding.

**Infection Prevention and Control under Clean Care is Safer Care**

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/en/>

The department of Service Delivery and Safety (SDS), previously Patient Safety, is the core WHO Department leading on the delivery of health services, in particular areas such as safety and quality improvement, care integration, people-centered care, clinical procedures, institutional health partnerships, patient and family engagement, as well as traditional and complementary medicine.

SDS works both inside and outside WHO to build evidence and promote knowledge-based tools to improve health services delivery. It supports WHO’s vision and priorities to provide critical global leadership by engaging health-care systems, NGOs, patients, families, communities and experts in an international effort to continuously improve health services. SDS collaboratively engages many key stakeholders such as Member States, policy-makers, global health partners, civil society, the private sector and the academic world. The department is in the process of developing new campaigns, and is also doing work related to Ebola and resiliency in impoverished areas.

Within this department there are several opportunities for students in Health Communication, Global Health and Health Disparities, Epidemiology, and others. This could also be a great fit for students wishing to gain some experience related to infection prevention and control from a global perspective. Applications can be submitted as late as the semester before the student wishes to begin the practicum, and interns are accepted year round.

**Influenza Surveillance and Monitoring**

Within WHO Strategic Objective 1 'To reduce the health, social and economic burden of communicable diseases', the overarching objective of the Global Influenza Programme are to strengthen global pandemic preparedness through improved quality and global coverage of influenza surveillance and response, improved understanding of health and economic burden of influenza, increased national preparedness for pharmaceutical (vaccine, drugs and other supplies) and non-pharmaceutical interventions, expanded vaccines use/coverage, more rapid communication and information exchange between Member States, WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network members, key partners and stakeholders.

Activities of interns may include any or all of the following to varying degrees according to the intern's interest and skills:

* Participate in the production of bi- weekly global epidemiological reports and situation analyses of influenza activity, especially the collection, collation and presentation of the data.
* Work on projects to summarize literature and/or analyse data related to influenza epidemiology.
* Assist in development of data outputs of FluID.
* Other tasks as assigned by GIP.

Interns need to have some training in epidemiology and communicable disease, excellent analytical skills, good interpersonal and presentation skills, computer literacy and good writing skills. It’s preferred that students have some experience in R or SQL. Accepted interns may also have an opportunity to gain experience within the department of Global Surveillance and Risk Assessment.

Interns are needed year round and interested students can apply as late as the semester before they would plan to begin the internship.

**Leishmaniasis Control Programme**

<http://www.who.int/leishmaniasis/en/>

The Leishmaniases are diseases caused by protozoan parasites from more than 20 Leishmania species that are transmitted to humans by the bites of infected female phlebotomine sandflies. There are three main forms of the disease: cutaneous, visceral and mucocutaneous: cutaneous leishmaniasis, visceral leishmaniasis or kala-azar, and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis. Recurrent epidemics of visceral Leishmaniasis in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan) have caused high morbidity and mortality in affected communities. Likewise, major epidemics of cutaneous Leishmaniasis have affected different parts Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Students interested in working in this department need to have previous research training and be able to work independently as the supervisors travel frequently. Preference may be given to MPH/DVM students. This site may be best suited for the completion of capstone projects due to the research heavy nature of the work done in the department.

Interns need to have some training in epidemiology, bistatistics and communicable disease, excellent analytical skills, good interpersonal and presentation skills, computer literacy and good writing skills. It’s preferred that students have some experience in using statistical software such as EPI info, SPSS or STATA.

Interns are accepted year round and applications can be accepted as late as the semester before the student anticipates beginning their internship.

**Nutrition for Health and Development**

<http://www.who.int/nutrition/en/>

Malnutrition, in any form, presents significant threats to human health. Undernutrition contributes to about one third of all child deaths. Growing rates of overweight and obesity worldwide are associated with a rise in chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

The World Health Assembly has adopted a Comprehensive Implementation Plan to achieve six global nutrition targets through direct nutrition interventions and multisectoral actions in the food system, education and social protection: reducing low birth weight; stunting, wasting and overweight in children; and anaemia in women by 2025.

Students interested in working in this department don’t need to have a strong nutrition or dietetics background. Interns need to have an interest and passion for nutrition, ability to critically read and understand scientific literature, and understand what “good data” is. This department could also be a great fit for someone with an interest in maternal and child health. Interns are needed year round and applications can be accepted as late as the semester before the student wishes to begin the internship.

**Zoonoses and Epidemiology under Department of Global Capacities**

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/>

Within the division of Food Safety and Zoonoses, and collaboration with the Department of Global Preparedness, Surveillance and Response, there are multiple opportunities for students to gain experience related to zoonoses and epidemiology. One focus of work currently being conducted in this area is antimicrobial resistance, and is especially well suited for students in the MPH/DVM program.

The terms of reference for this specific internship programme are to:

* Support event-based surveillance activities for zoonotic diseases
* Participate in the tracking, collation, and presentation of information on zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance
* Contribute to risk assessments
* Review literature on specific health threats and create summaries and presentations

Candidate selection will be based on the following criteria:

* Motivation and academic merit
* Fluency in English (French and/or one or more other languages is a plus but not required)
* Ability to work collaboratively in a team
* Writing and presentation skills
* Professionalism

Students selected for this internship may have the opportunity to gain experience in the partner departments of Influenza Surveillance and Monitoring as well as Global Surveillance and Risk Assessment. Interns are accepted year round and interested students will likely need to submit an application 6-12 months in advance.