**Position Type**: Practicum Projects

**Organization Name**: Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)
Performance Management & Quality Improvement
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

**Primary Contacts**
Antonia Blinn
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**Work Term**: Masters Level Students

**Project Title**: Academic Health Department Intern

**Project Description**

The mission of MDPH is to prevent illness, injury, and premature death, to assure access to high quality public health and health care services, and to promote wellness and health equity for all people in the Commonwealth. We envision a Commonwealth in which all people enjoy optimal health.

MDPH seeks to improve and expand its academic partnerships to become an Academic Health Department. Based upon work documented by the Public Health Foundation [Core Concepts](http://www.phf.org/resourcetools/Pages/AHD_Core_Concepts.aspx) and [Characteristics of Academic Health Departments: Initial Findings from a Cross-Sectional Survey](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4757462/)

The intern will have an opportunity to engage MDPH staff, and staff at schools and programs of public health in Massachusetts. The work will include a survey of current academic partnerships efforts within MDPH to develop a directory of existing partnerships, points of contact.

This work would support a number of possible implementation projects including:

1) informing the development of an Academic Public Health Department at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health including structure and decision making

2) development of academic partnership strategies for the department as a whole, and

3) Identification of tools, materials and supports that can enhance and improve coordination of our already robust academic partnership efforts.

The possible tasks for the intern(s) include:

- Conduct a needs assessment/environmental scan/survey on existing academic partnerships (including internships, professional development
collaborations, guest lecture, colleges/university level data, and research and evaluation collaborations and including supporting local public health efforts.

- Identification and cataloguing of other state health departments’ framework to support an Academic Health Department
- Identification of key frames to inform this work, such as: racial equity, public health ethics, Environmental Justice, community engagement, workforce development and change management.
- Assist with coordinating a meeting among Massachusetts schools and programs of public health and all related activities (agenda setting, invitation, notes, follow up etc.)
- Research and identify a tracking system for keeping track of academic partnership efforts at MDPH

**Thematic Focus:** Academic Health Department

**Team-based Project:** N/A

**Number of Openings:** 1

DPH seeks current MPH or doctoral candidates who have:

1) completed coursework in basic public health;
2) have a strong interest in identifying ways to improve public health through an academic institutional partnerships and expanded collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health
3) Interest in public health, academic health departments or policy to support pilot efforts.

**Desired Skills**

Required skills for this practicum include proficiency in MS Excel, attention to detail, the ability to work independently and in a team, an understanding of public health and academic structures and systems. In addition, strong organizational and communication skills essential.

Preferred skills include knowledge of NVivo or other similar qualitative analysis software, data management and analysis, and strong writing skills.

**Time**

Variable – 16 - 37.5 hours/week
**Commitment**

**Stipend/Salary** None, but interns should be receiving stipend or credit through their school or fellowship to apply.

**Posting Date** 01/15/2019

**Expiration Date** 12/31/2019

Please submit a cover letter that includes:

1. why you are interested in this placement,
2. the timing of your availability, including best days/times to come into MDPH, which is located at 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108
3. include anticipated start and end dates, and
4. a short writing sample.