

CIF Internship program 2011-2012

Introduction

Curatio International Foundation

Curatio International Foundation (CIF) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, established in 1994. Since its formation the organization has been actively focusing on reforming health systems in transition economies of Former Soviet Union and beyond, specifically in the Southern Caucasus (since 1995), Central Asia (since 1998), North Africa and Middle East (since 2004).

CIF contributes to the reforms in the public health system with the belief that health, more than any other aspect of social care, determines the quality of community life. We believe that an easy access to the essential health services is vital for having well developed and prosperous community members.

CIF aims to influence public policy with the purpose of increasing the efficiency and sustainability of health systems through improving management, financial access, and quality of health care. Therefore, CIF conducts unbiased analyses of the most critical issues regarding health systems and policies, and renders recommendations aimed at improving functionality and adequacy of policies.

CIF works in collaboration with a network of national and international professionals and researchers in order to bridge the gap between what is known about the problems at hand and what has to be done in order to solve them.

For additional information please visit www.curatiofoundation.org

Internships

Since 2002 CIF aims to attract interns from around the world who are studying at masters or Ph.D. level and who are interested to have first-hand experience in the real-life setting and to contribute to the research projects implemented by the organization.

Timing of the Internships

- Winter interns (December through February) from 2 to 6 weeks
- Summer interns (June through September) from 1 to 4 month

Terms of the Internships

This is non-paid internship although CIF provides following to the interns:

- Office space and access to internet communication and office equipment;

- Access to on-line library with more than 8,000 information resources and in 30 different languages;
- Internship coordinator, who provides continuous guidance around the research topic and support to an intern during their stay in Georgia and after their departure, during scientific paper preparation;
- Logistical support prior to arrival to Georgia and during their stay, which includes following but not limited to: acceptance letter to facilitate obtaining travel grants from different donors, support for accommodation in Tbilisi-Georgia, guidance for travel, etc.
- Block grant in the amount of 500 USD.

The Benefits to Interns are:

- Ability to apply knowledge and research skills on practice and satisfy project requirements at their school;
- Contribute to and be one of the authors of a scientific paper published in a peer reviewed journal with high impact factor;
- Interact with the professionals continuously involved/contributing to policy making process;
- Visit country of Georgia well known for its beautiful nature, history, culture, hospitality, wine and cuisine.

Intellectual property

A scientific paper production will be regulated by an International Research Exchange Agreement between CIF and the intern that articulates CIF's position on the intellectual property.

Application Process

Applications are accepted twice during a year

- Deadline for application for winter internship is October 20th
- Deadline for application for summer internship is March 31st

Interested candidates are required to submit following documents via e-mail (cif@curatio.com):

- Motivation letter, indicating which research topics they have selected (see the list of research themes currently in implementation at CIF) and how they can contribute to the research project;
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- Support letter from their school indicating applicants capabilities relative to the requirements stated in the research themes section for the selected research topic.

Selected candidates will be notified:

- On or before October 31st for winter internships
- On or before April 15th for summer internship

The List of Research Themes

Winter and Summer Internships for 2011-2012

1. Curatio International Foundation (CIF) has conducted **Bio-behavioural surveillance survey among men who have sex with men (MSM)** in capital city (Tbilisi), Georgia in 2010. Objective of the Bio-BSS in Tbilisi was to measure prevalence of HIV and other STIs (Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Herpes type-2 virus) among MSM, provide measurements of key HIV risk behaviours and generate evidence for advocacy and policy-making. The study was implemented within the GFATM funded project on the HIV/AIDS surveillance system strengthening implemented by CIF.

The survey was conducted using Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) methodology and was analysed in RDSAT (Respondent Driven Sampling Analysis Tool) by CIF. Final report and dataset in SPSS/RDSAT format are available in English. CIF intends to produce two publications based on available data with specific focus on behavioural factors contributing to high prevalence rates of HIV and other infections (specific focuses for the publications are to be determined).

Interns interested in HIV and behavioural issues with good quantitative analysis skills and scientific paper writing skills will strongly benefit from participating in the process.

The interns will be expected to participate and contribute to the following activities: a) undertake literature review; b) contribute to the quantitative data analysis; c) contribute to the specific sections of the paper.

2. Georgia has conducted two **nationally representative quantitative Health Utilization and Expenditure Surveys (HUES)** in 2007 and 2010 (quazi-experimental design). The surveys were planned to help evaluate impact of recent health sector reforms initiated by the Government, therefore the HUES offers pre and post intervention survey data for intervention and control groups. Therefore, CIF intends to use *Difference in Difference* analysis (or any other if suggested analysis will be more appropriate).

Interns interested in the issues of health policy and financing with good quantitative analysis skills (specifically in multivariate logistic and linear regression) and policy analysis skills will strongly benefit in participating in the HUES analysis. CIF considers following research questions to be answered by this analysis:

- How and to what extent the utilization patterns for the health care services by the State Insured population have changed between 2007-2010?
- How and to what extent the levels of out of pocket expenditures for health care services incurred by the State Insured population have changed?
- How and to what extent the health care services utilization and out of pocket expenditure patterns of the State Insured poor population compares to the same

- patterns observed in non-targeted poor population with similar social and economic conditions?
- What is the equity impact of the state initiated health-financing reforms, by looking at changing patterns in catastrophic health expenditures and level of impoverishment for the general population and for insured after the three years of the reforms implementation? Have reforms contributed to the observed changes?

The interns would benefit from: a) analyzing real-life policy initiative on a national level in Georgia; b) carrying out quantitative analysis on the large dataset and applying skills obtained during university studies; c) undertaking literature review; and d) along with the CIF staff contributing to scientific papers to be published in peer-reviewed journals.