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## CIF Winter Internship Program 2019

The winter internship program is now open! Master's degree and PhD students from around the world are invited to apply and use the possibility to develop advanced research skills, meet leading experts in the field and/or become a co-author of a scientific paper. We offer two research directions:

1. [The Global Fund transition, co-financing and sustainability policy](#): assessing policy impact on TB drug procurement practices in the countries
2. The role of private sector in delivering health services and private sector accountability

If you are interested in the abovementioned research topics and would like to find out more about working with our research team please submit your resume, motivation letter indicating the selected research topic and why you are interested in this area of work. Submission has to be accompanied with the recommendation letter from the university or the working place.

**Deadline for application is November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.** Notification about selection will be sent within 10-15 days after the deadline. Please follow our Twitter account with the hashtag [#internshipatCIF](#) to be updated about the selection process.

CIF attracts interns, who are interested to have the first-hand experience in the real-life setting and to contribute to the research projects implemented by the organization. Experience shared by our previous interns will give you better idea about our internship program please follow the link: <https://bit.ly/2q8hY6Y>

For any further queries, please contact Internship Program Coordinator Maia Uchaneishvili at [internship@curatio.com](mailto:internship@curatio.com)

Check the call online: <http://curatiofoundation.org/internship-announcement/>

## Research Topics for Winter Internship 2019

For the Winter Internship Program Curatio International Foundation (CIF) offers the following research topics:

1. [The Global Fund transition, co-financing and sustainability policy: assessing policy impact on TB drug procurement practices in the countries](#)

The Global Fund (TGF) provides 55.5% of external/donor funding spent on TB programs Globally. In the era of dwindling external assistance twelve countries in Europe are expected to graduate from TGF's support following [The Global Fund's Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing \(STC\) policy](#) introduced recently. For years TGF supported supply of quality drugs, diagnostics and new technologies, especially for Multi-Drug Resistant TB (M/XDR), because the region has been particularly affected reporting the highest proportion of M/XDR-TB cases among new and retreated patients 18.4 and 46.2% respectively. Therefore, sustainable transition assuring uninterrupted supply of quality drugs and diagnostics becomes critical for effective M/XDR-TB control in this part of the world.

The overall goal of the study is to systematically document and understand positive and negative implications of TGF's Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing Policy may have on TB commodity procurement practices on a country level, especially focusing on the aspects related to: (a) quality of supplied drugs and diagnostics through national funding; (b) impact on price of commodities purchased by the government and (c) impact on uninterrupted supply of commodities for TB program, which are all important to achieve lasting impact of the national TB programs on epidemic.

Intern is expected to undertake a literature review on, available evidence about positive and negative implications of donor Transition on drugs and commodities procurement practices, success stories or failures from other countries experiences including experiences from other donor supported public health programs such as USAID, GAVI, PEPFAR, etc..

Interns are expected to have the following capabilities/experience:

- Literature review skills/experience following the research framework. Ability to undertake a comprehensive, systematic search, critical evaluation of publications, thorough analytical and summative literature review skills, covering methodological issues and topic related, ability to develop a clear and coherent structure of the review with accurate citations.
- Manuscript or report writing skills/experience. Sharing of the reports or other documents developed by intern to proof their writing skills would be helpful.

Applicants interested in this research topic, however, not having proficiency in the skills, are strongly encouraged to upgrade their theoretical knowledge and practical skills prior to the internship term by enrolling in respective courses in their schools or taking online ones (for example [Coursera](#) or other ones). Applicants will be expected to adequately reflect this weakness in their application/motivation letter and describe how they intend to advance their knowledge and skills prior to undertaking internship. Failure to do so will have negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program.

## 2. The role of private sector in delivering health services and private sector accountability

Universal Health Coverage will not be achieved without proper role of the private sector. Private actors represented by profit and not-for profit organizations, sole practitioners or large networks

already has a strong role in the service delivery. However, there are number of challenges in the public-private partnership (PPP). In the context of unregulated markets and gaps left by the public sector the private sector is responding quickly posing risks to the quality and efficiency of services.

One of the challenges of the PPP, when looking at the private actors and for-profit organizations, is diversity of interests. In such arrangements private sector's bottom line is primarily financial profitability, which does not necessarily mean putting people's well-being first. Therefore, government's stewardship (including regulation) role over public finance is crucial. The government should have incentive mechanisms and risk management procedures in place to ensure that public resources serve purposes even when private providers are contracted.

The objective of the internship is twofold for Curatio International Foundation, but interns are expected to select one area out of two listed below:

- (a) Review published literature to identify diversity of accountability and oversight mechanisms used for ensuring effective and efficient public-private partnership (with private for profit actors) in health. The review should inventory the theoretical foundations/frameworks used for private sector accountability and/or oversight and describe strength and weaknesses of each framework, where possible.
- (b) Using web-search and literature review develop a comprehensive list/databse of private sector providers that went public during 2008-2018 and were listed on various stock exchanges in Americas, Western Europe, Middle East or in Asia. The structure of the database will be developed in collaboration of CIF staff.

2019 Winter term interns are expected to undertake scoping review of published literature the topics mentioned above. The review should cover peer reviewed publication as well as grey literature such as study reports, etc. Concrete terms of reference will be discussed and finalized jointly by the mentor researcher and selected intern.

Students interested in health systems and in public-private partnership models, with good literature search and review skills will strongly benefit from participating in this program.

Interns are expected to have following capabilities/experience:

- Ability to undertake a comprehensive literature search, critical evaluation of publications, thorough analytical and summative literature review skills, covering methodological issues and topic related, ability to develop a clear and coherent structure with accurate citations.

Applicants interested in this research topic, however, not having proficiency in the skills, are strongly encouraged to upgrade their theoretical knowledge and practical skills prior to the internship term by enrolling in respective courses in their schools. Applicants will be expected to adequately reflect this weakness in their application/motivation letter and describe how they intend to advance their knowledge and skills prior to undertaking internship. Failure to do so will have negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program.

For more information please visit our Internship page: <http://curatiofoundation.org/about-internship/> or contact Internship Program Coordinator [Maia Uchaneishvili](mailto:Maia.Uchaneishvili@curatio.com), [internship@curatio.com](mailto:internship@curatio.com)