

## Announcement of Winter Internship 2016

Curatio International Foundation invites Master and PhD international students to apply on Winter Internship Program.

Students have the possibility to develop advanced research skills, meet leading experts in the field and just spend the winter days in sunny Tbilisi.

For Winter Internship Program 2016, Curatio International Foundation (CIF) offers three different research topics:

1. HIV/AIDS and Behavioral Issues
2. Adherence to TB treatment
3. Maternal and Child Health Research

Interested students with good literature review OR quantitative analysis skills OR scientific paper writing skills will strongly benefit from participating in this program.

**Deadline for application is November 30, 2015. Notification about selection will be sent within one week period after the deadline.**

You can find all necessary Information in the documents below:

- Detailed Information about the Winter Internship Program 2016
- Curriculum Vitae template
- Logistical Note
- How to apply – A short presentation

Since 2002 CIF attracts 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. They share their internship experience in the short videos and give advices to students, interested with the program.

For queries, please contact Internship Program Coordinator Maia Uchaneishvili.

### DETAILED INFORMATION ON RESEARCH TOPICS

#### ***1. HIV/AIDS and Behavioral Issues***

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CIF conducted several rounds of **Bio-Behavioural Surveillance (BBS) surveys among key populations such as people who inject drugs (PWID), female sex workers (FSW), men who have sex with men (MSM) and prisoners** in various cities of Georgia. The objective of the Bio-BBS is to measure prevalence of HIV and other diseases among various risk groups, provide measurements of key HIV risk behaviours, evaluate outcomes of national response – preventive interventions and generate evidence for advocacy and policy-making.

Latest BBS among MSM was carried out in 2015 in two cities of Georgia, Tbilisi and Batumi with Respondent Driven Methodology. In total, more than 400 MSM were studied.

The datasets, study tools and study reports of the previous studies are available in English. Based on the available data CIF intends to produce papers in high impact peer reviewed journals.

Suggested research / publication topics include:

- 1) HIV epidemic change and factors associated with HIV infection among MSM
- 2) Prevalence and factors associated with risk behaviour among MSM

**Interns will be expected** to contribute to any of the following activities, depending on their interest:

- a. **Literature review**, specifically: Thorough desk research of published literature. The review should cover peer reviewed publication as well as gray literature (study reports, manuals, conference proceedings, etc.)
- b. **Synthesize the information** and produce the review according to the framework elaborated jointly with CIF.
- c. **Quantitative statistical data analysis.**

**Interns could contribute to the specific sections of the paper** (depending on their interest and capabilities) that will be published in peer-reviewed journal. Interns will be named as co-authors on these papers when prepared and depending on the quality of their output.

Therefore, students interested in HIV and behavioural issues with good literature review OR quantitative analysis skills OR scientific paper writing skills will strongly benefit from participating in this program.

Interns are expected to have one or several **following capabilities/experience**:

- **Literature review skills/experience.** 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 with accurate citations.
- **Quantitative analytical skills/experience.** Theoretical and practical skills in regression analyses are required.
- **Scientific paper writing skills/experience**

Applicants interested in this research topics, 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 a negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program.

## **2. Adherence to TB treatment**

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Tuberculosis (TB) is a major contributor to the global burden of diseases and is the second biggest killer disease from a single infectious agent. Poor adherence to treatment is common despite various interventions aimed at improving treatment completion. Due to non-adherence, patients are not cured of their disease and lead to complications such as development of severe disease and drug resistance. Also, non-adherent patients can infect other people.

Lack of a comprehensive and holistic understanding of factors is currently a major obstacle to finding effective solutions.

CIF intends to undertake mixed method study among TB patients in Georgia to understand factors that are associated with non-adherence to treatment.

Intern(s) will be expected to undertake a **literature review** to identify barriers or facilitators of the treatment adherence. Thorough desk research of published literature will be undertaken. The review

should cover peer reviewed publication as well as gray literature (study reports, manuals, conference proceedings, etc.)

Interns are expected to have **literature review skills/experience**, such as the 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 with accurate citations.

Applicants interested in this research topics, 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.

### ***3. Maternal and Child Health Research***

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Improving child health outcomes require better functioning health systems. The identification of barriers and bottlenecks and their timely removal or reduction are pre-requisites for implementing effective public health intervention. Curatio International Foundation carried out a study in five Central, Eastern European and Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia and Uzbekistan) to evaluate UNICEF-supported Maternal and Child Health programs and interventions over the 12-year period (2000-2012). The study assesses how successful UNICEF was in delivering evidence-based interventions and how the interventions addressed health system bottlenecks to achieve better child health outcomes. The study employed a mixed method approach such as desk review, secondary analyses of quantitative data from public and national databases on under-5 child morbidity and mortality and in depth interviews with stakeholders in researched countries.

Intern(s) will be expected to contribute to a scientific paper development based on the study materials (comprehensive country reports and background materials), published literature and additional quantitative data analyses. Thorough desk research of published literature was undertaken during the study implementation, however intern may be requested to do an additional literature search.

Interns are expected to have **scientific paper writing skills**, and **literature review skills/experience**. Basic quantitative data analysis skills will be encouraged.

Applicants interested in this research topics, 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 a negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program.