

## **World Health Organization Internship – Detection, Verification, and Risk Assessment**

### **Objectives of the Program**

The WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) is mandated to enhance WHO's capacity for the rapid detection, assessment and follow up of all public health risks. This provides the opportunity to establish a framework that facilitates the implementation of a common approach to epidemic intelligence and public health event management across all levels of the organization.

The Detection, Verification and Risk Assessment (DVA) unit is responsible for the detection, verification, assessment and follow up of acute public health events for public health intelligence and event management. Public Health Intelligence includes the collection, triaging and analysis of relevant information from various sources (both indicator-base and event-based, such as official Web sites and news media) and is a time and resource intensive activity requiring qualified personnel. The goal of public health intelligence is to rapidly identify public health events and trigger action to mitigate harm. One of the current epidemic intelligence activities being led by the DVA team is the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) Initiative.

The EIOS initiative is a network of organizations with one common goal: to minimize the impact of emerging risks to human health through quality and timely detection, assessment, early warning, forecasting and reporting at the member state, regional and global levels. In doing so, It will help strengthen member state capacity for early detection and evidence-based decision making, aligning with IHR event-based surveillance capacity requirements. The EIOS Initiative is being led by DVA at headquarters, in collaboration with various stakeholders.

### **Description of Duties**

#### Terms of reference

Under the supervision of the team leads in the Detection, Verification, and Risk Assessment (DVA) unit, the intern will support the delivery of activities related to the area of work as follows. These activities may include any or all of the following to varying degrees according to the intern's interest and skills.

- Participate in the detection and monitoring of potential events of public health concern
- Monitor information on global health emergencies sourced from informal and formal sources
- Identify potential events using the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) system
- Contribute to other administrative, technical, and scientific activities of the Detection, Verification, and Risk Assessment Team, as needed
- Support the development and evaluation solutions for public health intelligence needs
- Review literature and conduct literature surveys or undertake web research and data collection on specific subject area
- Assist in drafting, formatting and editing documents and materials in English

#### Learning objectives

1. Understand the objectives of the Detection, Verification and Risk Assessment unit within the Health Emergencies Programme. Understand the difference of work between headquarters, regional offices and country offices regarding detection, verification, and risk assessment of acute public health events.
2. Understand the process of event detection, verification, and risk assessment within a larger public health intelligence framework.

3. Become familiar with public health intelligence and early warning objectives and methods used at the three levels of WHO

### **Period of Internship**

The internship duration will be 6-8 weeks between June 1- August 28, 2020

### **Required Qualifications**

#### Education

Must meet one of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled as a medical student at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School  
or
- Current full-time Brown MPH student with an infectious disease background or strong surveillance interest

#### Skills

Core competencies

- Team work; Respecting and promoting individual and cultural difference; Communication

All interns should be able to demonstrate the following skills in line with the WHO core competencies:

- Communicating effectively orally and in writing; Showing willingness to learn from mistakes; Producing and delivering quality results; Working collaboratively in a team

In addition, interns need to be familiar with commonly used computer programmes, such as word, Excel, PowerPoint. Knowledge of specialized computer programmes may be an advantage.

### **Experience**

Experience in drafting reports which summarize data

Experience with public health surveillance and epidemiology through academic work or research

Field and/or deploying country experience

Experience with basic data analysis

### **Language**

Essential: Expert knowledge of English

Desirable: Intermediate knowledge of French or any other UN language

### **Place of assignment**

The intern is expected to perform their duty at WHO Geneva HQ

### **Funding**

The Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian (CHRHS) Studies at Brown University will provide a \$6,000 fellowship award to the selected candidate to cover travel and living expenses associated with this internship.

### **To Apply**

Submit a Cover Letter and Resume in a single consolidated .pdf file to [seth\\_stulen@brown.edu](mailto:seth_stulen@brown.edu)

### **Application Deadline**

Interested candidates must submit applications by no later than November 1, 2019