DPCS Boston Community Health Internship

Boston Community Health Internships introduce students to the human side of health. Boston has a long history of leading the country in social change through progressive legislation and activism. Boston Community Health Internships enable students to continue that storied tradition of changemaking through full-time community health internships with leading nonprofits. Internships are supported by Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS) and run by the Dartmouth Center for Social Impact.

About the Program

* 10-week full-time summer internship in Boston, MA
* Interns are provided apartment-style housing with peer interns
* Interns are provided a $1700 summer living stipend to cover transportation and food
* Interns are matched with an alumni mentor through DPCS
* Weekly professional development programming

Impact Focus

Community health is a diverse and intersectional field that understands patients are people first, rather than a series of medical diagnoses. Underresourced communities often face multiple barriers to living their healthiest lives due to intersecting barriers to access. Nonprofits across Boston work tirelessly to erase and reverse those barriers in myriad ways ranging from nutrition programs to free foot clinics, community meals to after-school exercise programs.

Boston Community Health Interns can expect to be placed with a high functioning nonprofit that approaches health not only as a medical problem, but as one that stems from complex social issues, using dynamic solutions to approach the problems they face daily.

Program Overview

During Boston Community Health Interns’ 10-week internship experience they will work in nonprofits that combat the city’s pressing issues of community health through challenging work that is distinctive to Boston’s needs and culture.

Internship duties will be at least 60% direct service to an under resourced community. **Duties are at the discretion of the agency, and students do not pick their agency**.

Students **will be placed** at high functioning nonprofit agencies with needs that match students’ skill sets.

Students will be challenged in numerous ways, but supported by alumni mentors, Dartmouth staff, and each other.

Generalized Role Descriptions 2023

This year’s 8 internship roles and organizations have been generalized below to give students a sense of the types of internships they may be matched to this year.

**Two of our roles require Spanish proficiency.** These roles are focused on resource coordination for patients and families who use the health services provided by the partner organizations and involve a high degree of interpersonal interaction requiring determination and proactivity.

Two of our partner organizations hold four of our roles in Boston this year. These organizations work with people who are unstably housed, many of whom use substances. The work done in these roles includes patient navigation, program support, harm reduction outreach, and housing assistance. There are 3 roles within these organizations that interact regularly with people who might actively be on substances. All four roles require a large degree of empathy, resilience, and humor.

Two of our roles will involve a research. One of the roles will also incorporate patient navigation for an organization that works with elders in the Boston area. The other role will be primarily research focused on a project around how the community partner is and could be addressing childhood obesity. These roles require attention to detail, an interest in self-starting research projects, and people skills.

Professional Development

Students will be challenged to enter the world of work with professionalism and learn the details of nonprofit decorum. They will meet weekly for cohort professional development sessions to reinforce these skills.

The general professional development curriculum will include conversations with a young alumni and an expert in a topic relevant to the cohort, a fun outing to experience your city, a knowledge building outing, a visit to a cohort partner organization, guided reflection, and a networking event to show off your experience.

Alumni Mentorship

Each student is matched with a DPCS alumni mentor who helps guide them through this experience by providing support, professional development, and advice. DPCS mentors meet with students to talk through internships, give career advice, and more. Often times students remain in contact long after the summer is over. DPCS Internship Alumni cannot say enough good things about their mentors!

A True Cohort

Boston Community Health Interns live and learn together, creating a new community for the summer. They support each other when days are challenging and celebrate together when there are victories. They may enjoy cooking meals together or simply share the bounty when they make too much. Students in this cohort are actively engaged in the process of caring for one another on their own terms.

Program Requirements

**Language Requirement**

None, but Spanish speakers are encouraged to apply

**Personal Qualities**

Flexibility, An Open Mind, Humility, Curiosity, Empathy

**Availability**

Must be available for the entire duration of the program

Program Details

**City Profile:** Boston, MA is about 3 hours from Dartmouth and is the largest city in the New England area. It is known for its lively university culture, prominent role in the American Revolution, and vibrant sports culture, especially in the summer. Like other historic cities, Boston is a city that is heavily neighborhood-centric, with each neighborhood bringing a unique identity, close knit community, and set of complex social impact issues. Past interns have said that experiencing Boston’s neighborhood culture made their internships very special and meaningful but required a lot of listening when they first arrived to learn their host community. Summer in Boston is full of possibilities, from the energy of Fenway Park to countless free activities in Boston Common, there is always something to do. Weather is hot and humid, with average temperatures being in the mid 80s with high humidity, although recent summers have been hotter due to heat waves.

**Housing and meals:** Interns are housed together in apartments in an area of the city populated by a major university. Students have double rooms and share bathrooms and lounges with members of their cohort. They are expected to buy groceries and cook in their suites’ shared kitchens.

**Transportation:** Students are expected to take public transportation to and from their work sites each day. Average transportation time is about 45 minutes to an hour each way to work.

**DCSI support:** DCSI staff is always available in case of an emergency, but they are also available to help students in other instances such as problems with background checks, work duties, or in general instances of professional development and mentoring.

**Reflection opportunities:** Students will be required to read a book about structural poverty throughout their internship experience. Additionally, they will be required to produce a written reflection at the midterm point and a written or media-based reflection at the final point of the term. Upon return to campus, they will participate in a group reflection and an individual debrief meeting with a DCSI staff member. While they are in Philadelphia, they will be encouraged to participate in the individual reflection method of their choice. Suggestions include journaling, photography, etc.

**Remember:** Students may not request specific agencies or organizations. Accepted students **may not** switch once they have been matched.

**D-Plan Connection:** We welcome mindful applications from all students with an upcoming summer off term who are interested in seeing innovative social impact work firsthand. Students from all majors and potential career paths are welcome to apply.

Continued Engagement

Looking for more ways to get involved with DSCI?

* **Social Impact Practicums (SIPS):** Dartmouth courses embedded with projects from Upper Valley nonprofits.

For a list of current and past courses: [<https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs->initiatives/students/social-impact-practicums-sips](https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/social-impact-practicums-sips)

* **’82 Upper Valley Community Impact Fellowship:** Up to $7500 grant covers one full-time leave term of immersion at a fellowship site in the Upper Valley to do social impact work and several terms of part-time involvement.

For an application and more information: <https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/internships/82-upper-valley-community-impact-fellowship>

* **Youth Education and Mentoring Programs (YEM):** Connect with school age youth in the Upper Valley in a variety of ways and create holistic approaches to youth growth, development, and learning through America Reads, DREAM, Growing Change, OLE, SEAD, and SIBS.

For more information: <https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/youth-education-mentoring-programs-yem>