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Call for Applications for Two (2) Student Fellowships
(Last updated 3 February 2010)

The McMaster Health Forum is an inter-faculty initiative that strives to be a world-leading hub for improving health outcomes through collective problem solving. Operating at the regional/provincial level and at national levels, we harness information, convene stakeholders and prepare action-oriented leaders to meet pressing health issues creatively. The Forum acts as an agent of change by empowering stakeholders to set agendas, take well-considered actions and communicate the rationale for actions effectively.

As part of our commitment to prepare action-oriented leaders in addressing pressing health challenges creatively, we offer the McMaster Health Forum Fellows Program, an exceptional opportunity for students to be part of the Forum community. For the 2010-2011 academic year, we will sponsor two undergraduate student fellowships.

About the McMaster Health Forum Fellows Program:

Forum Fellows will have the opportunity to:

- 1) Be part of a community of Forum staff, faculty, and Visiting Leaders (from around the world) who are committed to meeting pressing health challenges creatively;
- 2) Meet the many health system stakeholders who will be participating in Forum events, which include (among others) concerned citizens, heads of medical associations, hospital CEOs, Deputy Ministers of Health, and World Health Organization (WHO) Assistant Directors General;
- 3) Develop a work plan that helps to advance the aims of the Forum and a skill-development plan that will ensure that the fellowship experience supports Fellows' personal development;
- 4) Undertake a capstone experience as an intern in an organization charged with meeting pressing health challenges, which could include (among other organizations) the Ontario and federal governments and the World Health Organization (either headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland or one of its regional offices).

While the Forum will endeavour to match students to their preferred internship selections, no guarantees can be made about the location of an internship. If no internship can be arranged to the satisfaction of both the Fellow and the Forum, the internship will be organized at the Forum.

Possible elements of Forum Fellows' work plans include:

- 1) Participate as a member of the planning team for and as an observer in high-profile, off-the-record stakeholder dialogues where participants work through ways to address pressing health challenges, which could include (among other topics) developing a rural health strategy for a specific provincial health system, addressing the access and quality gaps in cancer-care delivery in the Hamilton region, and supporting chronic pain management in provincial health systems across Canada;
- 2) Participate as an observer in citizen panels where concerned citizens work through ways to address pressing health challenges, which could include (among other topics) how to improve decisions about the use and funding of medical technologies in Ontario;

- 3) Participate as a member of the Forum's Student Sub-Committee, which will oversee a series of student-led dialogues and debates, and participate as an observer in the Forum's Steering Committee and International Advisory Board;
- 4) Participate as a member of the planning team for and as a participant in faculty-led dialogues and debates, which could include (among others) working through ways to enhance value for money in both the Canadian and US healthcare systems;
- 5) Participate as a member of the planning team for high-profile public talks that will be planned in conjunction with campus visits by dignitaries participating in the above events;
- 6) Participate as a member of the planning team for a three-unit course based around simulations of hospital and Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) board meetings, provincial and federal cabinet meetings, and World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board and United Nations (UN) Special Assembly sessions;
- 7) Participate in training workshops offered for health system stakeholders who wish to develop skills related to finding and using research evidence to support decision-making and/or organizing and evaluating deliberative dialogues; and
- 8) Write content for the Forum's website and marketing/communications materials, editorials for newspapers and outputs linked to Forum events (e.g., high-level summaries of the stakeholder dialogues).

Eligibility requirements:

- 1) completion of the second or third year of any McMaster undergraduate program by April 2010 and plan to enrol full-time in the third or fourth year of any McMaster undergraduate program in September 2010;
- 2) a firm commitment to participate actively in the Forum during the 2010-2011 academic year (up to 10 hours per week from mid-September through mid-December 2010 and from January through March 2011) and to complete a two-to-three month internship during summer 2011.

These hours will be planned flexibly in order to ensure that Fellows can continue to meet the other demands associated with their respective academic programs and their extra-curricular activities. Please note that this firm commitment means that you have not applied for or been granted interviews for professional schools for admission in September 2010, or that you have applied but will know by mid-May whether you are planning to take up an offer of admission. Students who have been placed on one or more wait lists for admission to professional school in September 2010 will not be considered eligible for the fellowship.

Application requirements:

- 1) Two-page cover letter that describes both what you would bring to the Forum (in terms of knowledge, skills, and experiences) and what you would gain from the fellowship;
- 2) Resume;
- 3) Transcript (a PDF of the unofficial transcript is acceptable at the time of application. Please note that shortlisted candidates will be required to provide an official transcript);
- 4) Separate note indicating your current or planned commitments that may influence how you would participate in Forum activities. Please provide a list of all professional programs that you have applied to (for admission in September 2010), indicating whether you have been granted interviews or any other available details about the status of your application.

Application deadline and timeline for notifications:

- 1) Applications must be submitted electronically to Ileana Ciurea (ciurea@mcmaster.ca) by 4 p.m. on Wednesday 24 February 2010;
- 2) Interviews for short-listed candidates will be scheduled between 3 March and 12 March;
- 3) Preliminary notifications will be sent to successful applicants by Friday 14 May 2010, and these successful applicants will be given 10 days to notify us whether they will accept the offer and, if so, to confirm that they are not on one or more wait lists for professional schools for admission in September 2010.

Terms of the Fellowship:

- 1) \$5,000 payable in six instalments (two instalments of \$750 in the fall term, two instalments of \$750 in the winter term, and two instalments of \$1,000 over the summer);
- 2) Economy airfare and ground transportation costs associated with travel to and from the internship location (if applicable).

Depending on the location of the internship and under exceptional circumstances, an additional payment of up to \$1,500 may be made in order to support local accommodation costs. Also, as an alternative to receiving full remuneration for the Fellowship, a Fellow can elect to complete some of the Fellowship activities in the form of an independent study. Changes in remuneration in the context of course credit will be made on a case-by-case basis.

For more information about the McMaster Health Forum, visit our website at www.mcmasterhealthforum.org.