

## **IPSF Pharmacy Student Internship at The World Health Organization (WHO) Medicines Quality Assurance Programme**

Quality assurance is a wide-ranging concept covering all matters that individually or collectively influence the quality of a product. With regard to pharmaceuticals, quality assurance can be divided into four major areas: quality control, production, distribution, and inspections. The development of norms, standards and guidelines to promote quality assurance is an integral part of WHO's Constitution and has been endorsed and supported through numerous World Health Assembly resolutions, and more recently in those on the Revised Drug Strategy.

Through IPSF, the WHO Medicines Quality Assurance Programme will recruit 1 or 2 pharmacy student and/or young pharmacist interns to work at the main headquarters in Geneva.

### **Programme**

Under the supervision of Dr. Sabine Kopp, Manager of the Medicines Quality Assurance Programme, the intern will execute various projects in the context of following:

#### 1) Quality Assurance of Medicines

[http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality\\_safety/quality\\_assurance/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/quality_assurance/en/index.html)

- Participation in a survey and analysis of the situation regarding sampling plans for suspect and falsified medicines
- Generating and analysing survey results as available in the public domain and per responses received
- Drafting synthesis reports on survey results
- Required skills and qualifications:
  - Understanding of drug supply and distribution systems
  - Computer skills: Excel, Word, Access
  - Final year student / young graduate

#### 2) International Pharmacopoeia

[http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality\\_safety/quality\\_assurance/control/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/quality_assurance/control/en/index.html)

- Analysing scientific data (office work; not laboratory work)

- Assistance in developing monographs, screening and basic tests
- Assistance in checking information available to formulate specifications, based on laboratory studies and literature
- Required skills and qualifications:
  - Good analytical chemical skills based on laboratory experience
  - Good editorial skills in writing chemical specifications
  - Good understanding of analytical methodologies and description of test methods

### **Internship Period**

The internship will last 12 weeks, depending on the applicant's and Medicines Quality Assurance Programme's technical staff's availability.

Internship periods are a subject to an agreement between WHO Medicines Quality Assurance Programme and the selected interns.

### **Eligibility**

WHO may accept applicants who meet all of the following conditions as interns:

- Applicants who are enrolled in a course of study at a university or equivalent institution leading to a formal qualification (graduate or post-graduate).
- Applicants who apply for an internship within 1 year of completion of their formal qualification may also qualify for consideration;
- Applicants who have completed three years of full-time studies at a university or equivalent institution prior to commencing the assignment;
- Applicants who are fluent in at least one of the working languages of the office of assignment;
- Applicants who are not related to a staff member (e.g., son/daughter, brother/sister or mother/father);
- Applicants who have not previously participated in WHO's internship programme; and
- Applicants who are not current tobacco users

When accepting an internship, interns agree to: ·

- Conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the standards of conduct expected of a person working in an international environment in a specialized agency of the United Nations system.
- Refrain from any conduct that would adversely reflect on WHO or on the receiving department and not engage in any activity which is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the Organization.
- Provide the receiving programme with a copy of all materials prepared during the internship.
- Interns may not disclose or make use of any unpublished or confidential information that comes to their knowledge in the course of their internship. The provisions relating to texts prepared for publication apply also to interns. ·
- Submit a written report at the end of the internship to be reviewed by the supervisor and other interested parties.
- Interns are expected to devote themselves full-time to the assignments of the receiving unit for the period of the internship.

When offering an internship, the receiving programme agrees to: ·

- Ensure that an intern's assignment is related to his/her field of study, meaningful for both the programme and the intern, and at the appropriate level of complexity and variety. ·
- Review progress regularly and provide adequate feedback and coaching/mentoring during the internship.
- Provide office accommodation and related support facilities to enable the intern to undertake the assignment.
- At the end of the internship, prepare a written evaluation of the intern's performance and provide the intern with feedback.

### **How to Apply for the IPSF-WHO Quality Assurance Internship**

- All IPSF members are eligible to apply.
- WHO will be responsible for the final selection of applicant(s).
- Successful applicant(s) undertaking an internship will not be financially remunerated by WHO or IPSF.

- Applicants will be responsible for their own travel and living expenses.
- The deadline for this application is 1st March 2013. Additional applications will be considered after this date as vacancies arise or as directed by WHO.
- As part of your application please submit: -
  - A curriculum vitae (CV) .
  - A one-page motivation letter. Please also include your desired length of internship, and availability dates to undergo the internship. .
  - A maximum 1200 word essay on the role of the pharmacist in medicine quality assurance. All essays must be the original work of the applicant. IPSF reserves the right to publish the essays received (with acknowledgement of the author). .
  - A confirmation letter from your IPSF association.
  - A letter of support from your university

The full application shall be submitted electronically to [internship@ipsf.org](mailto:internship@ipsf.org) no later than **1st March 2013** (13:00 GMT). Only PDF format of all applications will be accepted.

The results of the internship selection will be announced to all candidates by 1st April 2013 at the latest. You can learn more about the WHO Quality Assurance Programme at: [http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality\\_safety/quality\\_assurance/en/](http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/quality_assurance/en/) If you have any questions about the internships please contact the IPSF Chairperson of Public Health at [publichealth@ipsf.org](mailto:publichealth@ipsf.org) or IPSF internship coordinator at [internship@ipsf.org](mailto:internship@ipsf.org) .