



Casa Alitas – Migrant Health Practicum Opportunity

Name of Organization	Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona- Casa Alitas
Organization Address	140 W Speedway Blvd Tucson, AZ 85705
Organization Description (Brief)	The Casa Alitas Program offers support to migrant families fleeing violence, poverty, and discrimination. Upon arrival in Arizona, most migrants are directed to Casa Alitas by immigration authorities. Here, staff and volunteers assist them in contacting family members in the U.S., provide temporary shelter, basic necessities, and medical care. Families also receive COVID testing and vaccination if needed. Before departure, they are given travel bags with essential items. Those unable to depart immediately stay overnight at shelters staffed by volunteers and Catholic Community Services.
Name and Title of Preceptor	Analya Romo/ Data Systems Coordinator
Preceptor Experience and Education (Provide your professional background and describe any experience working with students). Preceptor qualification requirements include: - At least five years of full-time, professional public health experience; OR - A graduate degree in public health or a related field and at least two years of full-time, professional public health experience.	<p>As a professional in the field of public health, I bring a wealth of experience and expertise that aligns closely with the requirements for serving as a preceptor for MPH students. With a Master of Science in Global Health and Development from the University of Geneva and a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with an emphasis on Global Health and Development from the University of Arizona, I possess a strong educational foundation in public health and related disciplines.</p> <p>Over the past several years, I have accumulated significant hands-on experience working in various public health settings, both domestically and internationally. My roles have encompassed research, program coordination, data analysis, and advocacy, allowing me to develop a comprehensive understanding of public health principles and practices.</p> <p>In particular, my work as a Data Systems Coordinator at Casa Alitas involves supervising and training staff and interns, demonstrating my ability to mentor and support individuals in their professional development. Additionally, my consultancy role with GRAPH Network in Geneva provided me with the opportunity to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams and contribute to the</p>



	<p>development of comprehensive reports, further honing my communication and leadership skills.</p> <p>Furthermore, my experience as a Bilingual Program Coordinator at New Pathways for Youth and as a Bilingual Hotline Specialist at Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse involved extensive interaction with diverse populations and stakeholders, highlighting my cultural competence and ability to effectively engage with students from varied backgrounds.</p> <p>In summary, my graduate degree in global health, coupled with over two years of full-time professional experience in public health roles, positions me well to serve as a preceptor for MPH students. I am eager to leverage my expertise to support and mentor the next generation of public health professionals.</p>
Preceptor contact information (email, phone)	analyar@casaalitas.org
Preference for contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Phone (either)
Ideal start date (the earliest start date for students is May 13, 2024)	May 13, 2024
Ideal end date (students must complete their hours by August 16, 2024)	Aug 16, 2024
Paid work/Compensation for work	No
Range of funding available (hourly or total).	\$1,700 funding award from Gillings Global Health
Opportunity to handle quantitative data	Yes
Description of the Proposed Practicum (Describe the work experience and/or project: context, health problem, population)	<p>The proposed practicum experience entails active engagement with an organization dedicated to serving refugees and asylum seekers in the southern border region. This population faces unique health challenges, necessitating a multifaceted approach to address their needs effectively. Our organization, as one of the largest groups currently operating in this space, plays a pivotal role in providing essential medical support and collecting data to inform evidence-based interventions.</p> <p>Context: The southern border region serves as a critical gateway for individuals fleeing persecution and seeking asylum in the United States. Amidst ongoing geopolitical tensions and policy changes, refugees and asylum seekers encounter significant barriers to accessing healthcare services and navigating the asylum process. Our organization operates within this complex context, striving to</p>



mitigate these challenges and promote the well-being of this vulnerable population.

Health Problems:

Refugees and asylum seekers in the southern border region confront a myriad of health issues, including infectious diseases, mental health disorders, chronic conditions, and reproductive health concerns. These challenges are exacerbated by factors such as trauma, displacement, language barriers, and limited access to culturally competent care. Addressing these health disparities requires a comprehensive understanding of the unique needs and experiences of refugees and asylum seekers.

Population:

The target population for this practicum consists of refugees and asylum seekers from diverse backgrounds and nationalities who are residing in or transiting through the southern border region. This population encompasses individuals of all ages, genders, and socioeconomic statuses who have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence.

Project:

The practicum will involve collaborating with the organization's data collection efforts, which are instrumental in informing evidence-based interventions and advocating for policy changes to support refugee and asylum seeker health. The student will work alongside me to clean and analyze the collected data, utilizing data visualization techniques to create dashboards that distill key insights and trends.

These dashboards will serve as valuable tools for disseminating findings to stakeholders, including international and local organizations, policymakers, and public health professionals. By sharing our data with external partners, we aim to foster collaboration and collective action to address the pressing health needs of refugees and asylum seekers. Through this hands-on experience, the student will gain invaluable skills in data analysis, visualization, and stakeholder engagement while contributing to meaningful efforts to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

In summary, the proposed practicum offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the organization's mission of supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the southern border region through data-



	driven interventions and collaboration with public health stakeholders.
Benefit to student (How will this placement be of interest and benefit to a student?)	<p>The proposed placement offers numerous benefits and opportunities for the student:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hands-on Experience: The student will gain practical experience in working with a diverse and vulnerable population, providing valuable insight into the complexities of refugee and asylum seeker health.2. Data Analysis Skills: By assisting in cleaning and analyzing collected data, the student will develop proficiency in data analysis techniques, a highly sought-after skill in public health research and practice.3. Data Visualization: The student will have the opportunity to utilize data visualization tools to create dashboards, enhancing their ability to effectively communicate complex information to diverse stakeholders.4. Stakeholder Engagement: The student will engage with international and local organizations, policymakers, and public health professionals, expanding their professional network and fostering collaboration within the public health community.5. Impactful Contribution: Through their work, the student will contribute to meaningful efforts to address the health disparities faced by refugees and asylum seekers, making a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable populations.6. Professional Development: The placement will provide valuable mentorship and guidance, supporting the student's professional development and helping them cultivate essential skills for a career in public health. <p>Overall, this placement offers a unique opportunity for the student to gain practical skills, make a meaningful impact, and advance their career aspirations in the field of public health.</p>
Roles and Responsibilities of the student	<p>The roles and responsibilities of the student within the proposed practicum would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Data Cleaning and Management: The student will be responsible for assisting in the cleaning and management of collected data, ensuring its accuracy and reliability for analysis.2. Data Analysis: Utilizing statistical software and techniques, the student will conduct data analysis to identify trends, patterns, and insights relevant to refugee and asylum seeker health.



	<p>3. Dashboard Creation: The student will leverage data visualization tools to create dashboards that effectively communicate key findings and metrics to stakeholders in a clear and concise manner.</p> <p>4. Adaptability and Flexibility: Given the dynamic nature of the organization's work and the evolving needs of the refugee population, the student will demonstrate flexibility and adaptability in responding to changing priorities and tasks.</p> <p>5. Professional Development: The student will actively engage in opportunities for learning and professional growth, seeking mentorship and guidance from experienced public health professionals within the organization.</p> <p>6. Ethical Considerations: Throughout their work, the student will adhere to ethical principles and guidelines governing research involving human subjects, ensuring the confidentiality and dignity of individuals represented in the data.</p> <p>Overall, the student will play a crucial role in supporting the organization's mission by contributing to data-driven decision-making, fostering collaboration, and advancing efforts to address the health needs of refugees and asylum seekers in the southern border region.</p>
Skills and Experience Required	-Proficiency in R, Google Sheets, and G Suite products is preferred. Experience with Looker Studio is also preferred. Demonstrated sensitivity to migration issues and experience collaborating with diverse cultural groups is essential.
Expected Outputs (Practicum experience must yield at least two student-generated, practical work products (e.g., project plans, grant proposals, training manuals or lesson plans, surveys, memos, videos, podcasts, presentations, spreadsheets, websites, photos with accompanying explanatory text, or other digital artifacts of learning), produced for the practicum site's use and benefit, that demonstrate attainment of five CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies)	Expected Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Data Visualizations (Dashboard)- Monthly cleaning of data on new spreadsheets.
How to apply (include how and what materials you would like students to send to you to show their interest, including a due date)	Please email your cover letter and resume to Anlyar Romo at anlyar@casalitas.org . In your cover letter/resume please include your experience with both or either quantitative or qualitative research, along with your interest in migration issues.



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