

MSW Access Alliance Student Placement

Fall/Winter 2023

Title: Research & Evaluation Social Work Student

Start Date: September, 2023

Primary Contact:

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Supervisors:

Akm Alamgir, PhD, MPhil, MBBS (he/him) Director, Organizational Knowledge & Learning aalamgir@accessalliance.ca

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Format: In-person (Access Alliance College Site, 340 College St Suite 500, Toronto, ON M5T 3A9)

Department: HEAL Project – Community Based Research and Programs

Number of positions: 1

Requesting: Fall/Winter Term Year II Student

Placement Project Description: Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services (Access Alliance) will work with peer researchers, community members as well as academic and community organization partners to implement HEAL, an inter-sectoral, creative, culturally safe, multi-pronged capacity enriching project. This co-design, mixed method, community based participation action research is focused on vulnerable newcomer populations who are survivors or at risk of, domestic violence in the City of Toronto. The team will develop expressive arts interventions and identify promising or best practices to address the trauma-informed health impacts of family violence and to improve participants' physical and mental wellbeing.

Team: The placement student will be working on an interprofessional team with art therapists, peer researchers, mental health counsellor, social workers and other as needed.

Student Role:

- Supporting program logistics and co-facilitation alongside the art therapist, mental health counsellor and/or peer researcher
- Assist in administrative tasks related to program development and implementation
- Support the collecting of data through evaluation tools provided
- Assist in expressive arts co-facilitation of groups with newcomer populations, predominantly women, girls and 2SLGBTQ2+
- Help project team meet program targets through organizational skills and strategies - Interact with community members during session and provided assistance as needed (these parameters will be provided prior to sessions)

- An asset, but not required. Language proficiency in the following Arabic, Amharic, Tigrinya, Bengali, Dari, Pushto.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

- Improver skills in implementing program evaluations pre, during and post program
- Enhance skills on synthesizing qualitative and quantitative data collected from evaluations
- Increase skills in information synthesis and report writing about programs implemented
- Hone co-facilitation skills during programs with community participants focused on mental health and therapeutic groups
- Develop excellent cross-cultural communication abilities with community members and team
- Learn logistical and organizational needed to implement a successful art-based program
- Gain knowledge on expressive arts therapies and mental health as it related to their area of studies - Learn how to work and communicate on an interprofessional team

Student Learnings:

- Enhance skills on synthesizing qualitative and quantitative data collected from evaluations
- Increase written skills by producing program reports on programs involved
- Hone co-facilitation skills during programs with community participants alongside professional art therapists and mental health counsellor/social worker
- Develop excellent cross-cultural communication abilities through community member interactions
- Learn logistical and organizational elements part of program planning and implementation - Gain knowledge on expressive arts therapies and mental health to better understand project scope and programs
- Learn how to work and communicate on an interprofessional team of healthcare professionals (e.g. art therapist, mental health counsellor, social worker, and peer researchers etc.)
- Students will be mentored by two supervisors (project coordinator and research lead) during the duration of their placement for professional development
- Students will attend research meetings to engage in information and knowledge sharing with other placement students and researchers

Please note: Due to public health guidelines and organizational precautions around COVID-19, Access Alliance requires all staff, volunteers and students to be fully vaccinated. While onsite at Access Alliance, you are required to wear a mask and follow COVID-19 protocol.

We welcome and encourage immigrants and refugees to have their Student Placement with us! We encourage applications from students who reflect the broad diversity of communities we work with, including those from racialized and 2SLGBTQ2+ communities.