

**MEXICAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SECURITY (IMSS)
SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN CUERNAVACA, MEXICO**

IMSS is the health services and health policy research arm of the federal Department of Social Services. IMSS is also the main social security institution in Mexico providing health insurance coverage to approximately 30-40% of the population. All people who are, or have been, employed in the formal sector of the economy (as well as their spouses and dependants) are eligible for IMSS services. Health services and medication are provided free-of-charge to all individuals insured by IMSS.

We have hosted several summer interns from UCLA and other universities in the US, including Johns Hopkins, the University of Michigan, etc. All of these students have worked under the guidance and mentorship of qualified researchers at IMSS. We are interested in masters or doctoral students from the UCLA School of Public Health who would like to conduct their internships at our organization in Mexico. Program areas that interns can contribute to include: (1) family planning and reproductive health (RH), (2) domestic violence, (3) adolescent health, (4) HPV and cervical cancer, (5) liver disease, (6) nutrition, obesity and health, and (7) chronic diseases including diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Interns work closely with IMSS investigators on a research project of their interest.

Interns are involved in many activities, which include: conceptualizing the type of research they would like to conduct, conducting a review of the relevant literature, data base management, data analysis, and writing a manuscript for publication. For the cervical cancer area, an intern might assist in conducting needs assessments for new RH services that IMSS could provide or examining existing RH services for adolescents or adults. In the area of domestic violence (DV), the intern could work on a number of projects including focus groups with service providers, DV needs assessment (within IMSS and in outside organizations, with the government where most services are currently provided or with NGOs), questionnaire development, or data analysis. The liver disease research projects include a comparison of the risk factors for liver disease among Mexicans who live in the U.S. and Mexicans who live in Mexico.

Preference will be given to students who have experience in statistics and data analysis. Although interns will be supervised and mentored, they should also be able to work independently and be willing to accomplish a substantial amount of work in a short amount of time, so that they get the most out of their internship. Spanish would be helpful but is not a requirement. In some cases, we can offer students a modest stipend if the student can stay for a period of six months or longer. We cannot offer stipends for shorter stays but we can assist students in obtaining funding. Some students stay for 8-12 weeks, others up to a year. Although we cannot pay for travel expenses, we do help students find a place to live and assist them in getting settled.

Please contact Dr. Yvonne Flores (ynflores@ucla.edu) if you have any questions or need any additional information.