

## HSE University, St. Petersburg

### International Centre for Health Economics, Management and Policy (CHEMP)

#### **INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE** **Starting October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

#### Overview

**Job Title** Research Internship (part-time)

**Summary** There are a number of Research Internships available in the HSE St. Petersburg International Centre for Health Economics, Management and Policy (CHEMP).

- Research Interns will work in one of the project areas listed below under the supervision of a CHEMP researcher. In exceptional circumstances an applicant, with a well-developed idea of their own could propose a project not listed below.
- Interns will also be required to attend and support the organisation of CHEMP events and to assist the CHEMP Manager in the preparation of research centre reports.
- Interns will be expected to be present in the CHEMP premises (other than when undertaking fieldwork) for 1-2 days per week subject to contract.

#### Intern Projects in Health Studies

(Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, Management)

1. Project A: Web and social media

This project is a more practical project oriented towards developing the 'footprint' (profile) of CHEMP and health economics research/teaching in general in Russia. The successful applicant will take responsibility for updating the CHEMP website, posting to the centre twitter and facebook pages, creating and editing a CHEMP blog, supporting the working papers series, designing and helping to produce a CHEMP newsletter/leaflet, and building a website for a new Health Economics association in Russia. A successful applicant will have an interest in the field (or a commitment to developing knowledge of the field), be an active user of social media, have some experience of working with websites and have the confidence to experiment with new and innovative ideas.

2. Project B: EQ-5D in a health and lifestyle survey

Conduct a small pilot survey to explore the relationship between health status (as measured by EQ-5D) and lifestyle in a sample of Russian adults. This will involve designing a brief assessment questionnaire based on existing Russian population surveys and including EQ-5D-3L. You will need to identify a study sample (of 100-200) in which there are well-differentiated subgroups (for example distinguished in terms of economic status, current health experience, education or age). Participants will be recruited from 2 or more subgroups and will be asked to complete the questionnaire. The data will be analysed with the guidance of the supervisor and a written report/article produced, in English. This project is designed for 2-3 students to work on together.

3. Project C: An EQ-5D literature review

EQ-5D-3L is a generic measure of health status that is in widespread use throughout the world. Russian studies including EQ-5D-3L are less commonly encountered in journal publications.

You will conduct a survey of clinical, population health and other Russian studies in which EQ-5D-3L has been used based on papers and reports published in the period 1996 - 2016 with particular attention being given to studies reported within the last 10 years. This will include PubMed literature but not be limited to it. You will design a standard template to enable a brief 100-word summary to be tabulated for each study (in English). Descriptive statistical analysis will be used to summarise the results of this review, in English.

4. Project D: Health Technology Assessment – what discount rate?

An important part of Health Technology Assessment is the discounting of outcomes and costs (i.e. what rate of discount should be applied and on what grounds?). This has proved to be a very controversial topic in the academic world with important repercussions for policy practice. This project is an ambitious but exploratory one, starting with a detailed literature review and report on the state of the art of the topic and the associated controversies. The project will then develop into a multidimensional research project, involving small scale discussion groups, expert interviews and surveys and modelling. This project is suited to 2 interns, working together, preferably with different backgrounds – one with a strong economics, statistics and mathematics background and one with at least some experience of sociological methods. An interest in philosophical questions regarding value and valuation will be beneficial. Within the project, the interns will learn about time-trade off, standard gamble and other ‘measurement’ methods, as well as interviewing and the construction of questionnaires. Applicants with existing knowledge of game theory and/or experience in implementing questionnaires will be looked on favourably.

5. Project E: HIV, Hepatitis C and other risks associated with hard drug use among young drug users in St. Petersburg, Russia

Despite evidence that amphetamines, opioids and new synthetic drugs (spices, salts) are relatively popular among young (18 - 26 year olds) Russians, there is very little research on sexual and injection risk behaviors or the situations, contexts and dynamics of drug use among young hard drug users. This project will explore these issues. The intern will assist an international research team in: a) qualitative interviewing; b) quantitative (structured) interviewing; c) preparation of a major research proposal based on the pilot results for a major research foundation. Preference will be given to candidates with a long-term interest in studying HIV and drug use.

6. Project F: Food and Nutrition

While much of the health behaviour focus has been on smoking and alcohol, there has been less attention paid to the field of food, nutrition and physical exercise. This project will therefore explore the content and quality of diets in Russia. Starting with a full literature review on the subject, the project will gather and analyse data from appropriate sources, which may include Rosstat, the RLMS or Euromonitor. The goal of the project will be to examine the healthfulness of consumer baskets/reported household purchases using a common nutrient profiling model e.g. such as those applied by the respective Food Standards Agencies of UK/US. Given the topicality of obesity in Russia (see <http://tass.ru/en/society/849486>) it may also be possible to explore trends in and determinants of obesity.

7. Project G: Morbidity in Russia

Since it is the largest killer in Russia there is a lot of focus in the literature and among policy makers and medical practitioners on cardiovascular disease. One consequence of this, is that much less is known about the burden of some other important diseases in Russia e.g. COPD, lung disease, liver disease, breast cancer, stomach cancer and so on. This project therefore requires a comprehensive literature review of the research into one of these (or another) less researched diseases. The project should produce a report including analysis of available data. Relevant issues to consider include: policies on prevention; standards of diagnosis; in-patient treatment standards; regional variations; out-patient behaviour (e.g. adherence to medication) and re-admission.

#### 8. Project H: Russian Health Production Function

In this project you will create a database of health, demographic and socio-economic indicators for the Russian regions (with data from Rosstat). The database, which will be in English, will be used to estimate dynamic health production functions for Russia using Stata.

#### 9. Project I: Cross-country analysis of demographic trends

The demographic trends (fertility, mortality, population structure) that are emerging in the East European and Central Asian region have been the focus of much scrutiny and speculation during the last two decades. In this project you will create an English language database of key demographic and related statistics for this region and produce a quantitative analysis (using Stata) and accompanying report/article examining the nature and determinants of the trends.

### Remuneration and employment conditions

- The intern appointments are for *up to* 0.5 FTE (20 hours per week for 0.5 FTE).
- The starting salary for 0.5 FTE is 6,000 roubles per month, including 2,000 bonus.
- The bonus tariff will be reviewed on a monthly basis and reward for excellence will be implemented.
- The costs associated with fieldwork will be covered separately.
- Appointments will commence on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and, in the first instance, will continue until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.
- Successful interns may be invited to resume employment in 2017.
- Interns will have access to the CHEMP premises at Kantemirovskaya 3A, 408 and 411, where they will be allocated a (shared) working space.
- Interns will be expected to undertake the majority of their work on the CHEMP premises.
- The line manager of all interns is the Director of CHEMP.

### Who can apply?

The intern positions are for advanced students with appropriate training in relevant research methodologies (quantitative and qualitative). Doctoral or Masters applicants are particularly encouraged but 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate applications with a demonstrable interest in health studies will also be considered.

First or second year undergraduate students will not be appointed as Interns but are encouraged to undertake project work with CHEMP.

### Application procedure

Interested applicants should submit a CV (not more than 2 pages) and a statement of motivation (not more than 1 page) both in English. The statement of motivation should refer to the particular project(s) that you wish to work on and make clear why you think you are appropriate for the position. You may refer to know more than 3 separate projects. Your CV should make clear which approaches and methods you are familiar with e.g. econometrics (using Stata, R, SPSS etc), focus groups, interviewing, survey design.

**Please send your applications to CHEMP manager Sverchkova, Svetlana at [ssverchkova@hse.ru](mailto:ssverchkova@hse.ru).**

The deadline for applications is **September 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)** and interviews will be held on **September 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)** and **September 21<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)**. The Centre manager will contact you and appoint a meeting.

Any questions concerning the internships or the application procedure should be addressed to CHEMP manager Sverchkova, Svetlana ([ssverchkova@hse.ru](mailto:ssverchkova@hse.ru)).