

Community-Engaged Research (CER) Graduate Student Internship Program

The Community-Engaged Research (CER) Graduate Student Internship Program, facilitated through the Faculty of Social Sciences' [Community Research Platform](#) (CRP), provides opportunities for Masters and PhD students to work with CRP partner organizations on research projects that support organizational needs and priorities and have tangible benefits for communities.

Intern Job posting

Project: Developing an Evaluation Framework & Plan for the Hamilton Public Library's Social Worker program

Job Description:

In January 2023, Hamilton Public Library (HPL) launched its social worker program which includes having onsite social work support at Central branch five days per week. This program was the result of earlier research and advocacy work that pointed to the need for more specialized supports at public libraries to address the increasingly complex needs of some library patrons. A welcome addition to the HPL, Library Social Workers possess the skills to engage patrons directly and provide support such as referrals and outreach. They also offer educational resources and support for library workers to better equip them to serve library patrons with more complex needs.

HPL is now seeking an MA or PhD level Social Work student intern to support the development of an evaluation framework and plan to better understand the impact of this program and to inform its future growth and development.

The intern will support several key activities related to the evaluation planning. Key tasks include (but are not limited to):

- 1) Document the program's origins, purpose and current workings
- 2) Conduct a literature review and environmental scan focused on evaluations of programs like this one, to inform our own evaluation plan
- 3) With the Evaluation Steering Committee, define a framework, key questions, methods and metrics for the evaluation
- 4) Begin the evaluation, and support the development of a grant that will allow us to undertake the evaluation
- 5) Supervise a BSW student working on the evaluation plan (and on program development or program-related research useful to social workers at the library)

6) Facilitate the work of the Evaluation Steering Committee

Required skills and experience:

- MSW or BSW with significant practice experience
- Strong qualitative research skills, ideally with evaluation experience
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrated interest in community based, action-oriented research
- Excellent time management, organization and interpersonal skills

Duration of Internship: 10 hours per week for approximately 16 weeks.

Value of Award: \$6,000

Application Deadline: April 15, 2023

To Apply: please visit <https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/crp/opportunities-and-services>.

For general inquiries about the program, please contact Leora Sas van der Linden, CRP Program Manager at: sasvandl@mcmaster.ca