Helping Fund Your Graduate Education: School of Public Health Checklist

**Weekly**

☐ Read the SPHere Student Newsletter
   The SPHere Student Newsletter will be in your inbox first thing almost every Monday morning. Take five minutes to read through the newsletter for opportunities such as upcoming conferences, skills training workshops, available assistantships, free SAS classes, networking opportunities, and more.

☐ Check the following websites for employment opportunities:
   - [https://www.sph.umn.edu/careers/listings/](https://www.sph.umn.edu/careers/listings/)
   - [https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/Welcome_css.jsp](https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/Welcome_css.jsp)

**Monthly**

☐ Schedule an informational interview
   One of the best sources for gathering information about what’s happening in an occupation or an industry is to talk to people working in the field. Informational interviews allow you to expand your professional network, build confidence, practice interviewing, and discover employment opportunities that are not advertised. Speak with your program coordinator, faculty advisor, mentor, and Career Services staff to receive recommendations for names of people whom you might contact.

☐ Attend at least one event sponsored by the School of Public Health
   The School of Public Health frequently organizes events allowing great opportunities to network with public health professionals. Be sure to attend a SPH sponsored event such as a Brown Bag hosted by Student Senate or Diversity Matters organized by the Office of Admissions and Student Resources. Read the SPHere Student Newsletter for SPH events to attend.

**As Needed**

☐ Make an appointment with Career Services
   Career Services staff can help you in many ways. For instance, they will critique your resume, conduct mock interviews with you, discuss opportunities for engagement, help you find an appropriate field experience, and provide you with helpful resources, among other things. To schedule an appointment with one of the counselors, just send an email to sphjobs@umn.edu.

☐ Make an appointment with your program coordinator and faculty advisor
   Both program coordinators and faculty advisors can offer assistance in finding engagement opportunities which may include possible assistantships.

**Upon Matriculation**

☐ Sign up for the mentor program
   We have the largest mentor program of any school of public health in the nation. Through this program, students are able to establish professional relationships with public health experts. Occasionally, mentors may be able offer engagement opportunities or even field experiences. Take advantage of this great opportunity!

☐ Sign up for at least one extracurricular activity
   Whether you participate in the National Public Health Week Film Fest Committee, Student Senate, or Common Grounds sign up for an engagement activity to help you network with other students and build your collaborative leadership skills.
Q: What type of funding is available from the School of Public Health?
A: Scholarships and employment in the form of assistantships are available from SPH.

Q: How do I apply for a scholarship?
A: All applicants meeting the December 1st priority deadline and who are admitted to the School of Public Health, will automatically be considered for first-round school related scholarships. Alternatively, for information on scholarships and fellowships that do require a separate application, see the following webpage: http://www.sph.umn.edu/prospective/financing/FSFShips/.

Q: When will I be notified if I have received a scholarship?
A: School-wide scholarship decisions are made at the end of February, with letters being sent out by mid-March. Since we ask for students to either accept or decline admission offers by April 15th, in most all cases students receiving a scholarship will have received a notice by the end of March to allow time for students to make a decision on which school to attend.

Q: What is the financial aid application deadline?
A: The School of Public Health does not have a formal financial aid deadline since students are automatically considered for scholarships. However, it is in your best interest to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. Learn more about the FAFSA by visiting the following webpage: http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/. For additional questions regarding Financial Aid, please contact Liz Holm at holmx029@umn.edu or 612-624-4138 or visit onestop.umn.edu.

Q: How do I get an assistantship?
A: Assistantships are limited and very competitive. To increase your knowledge and strengthen your eligibility for a graduate assistantship, consider learning a statistical software package like SAS or SPSS, or taking a biostatistics course even prior to your arrival as a graduate student. Students with these skills are highly sought after.

Here is a link to a tip sheet on finding an assistantship: http://www.sph.umn.edu/careers/tip sheets/assistantships/

Q: Who is eligible for an assistantship?
A: All graduate students are eligible to apply for any research or teaching assistant positions available. Visit the following website for more assistantship eligibility information:
http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/hr/Hiring/GRADSTUDENTEMPLOYMENT_APPA.html.

Q: What is the cost of attendance at the School?
A: Cost of attendance varies by program. Prospective students can view tuition and fees at the following webpage:
http://www.sph.umn.edu/prospective/financing/tuition/.

Q: What types of financial support are available for international students?
A: International students are automatically considered for scholarship funding opportunities when the application has been submitted by the December 1st deadline. International students can also apply for scholarships listed here:
http://www.sph.umn.edu/prospective/financing.