



THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH-NEPAL, FULBARI, CHITWAN (ISER-N)

OVERVIEW

The ISER-N Research Internship Program is a strategic and impactful initiative designed to provide interns with valuable opportunities to enrich their understanding of social and environmental research processes. Whether your interests lie in research, policy, or intervention science, ISER-N offers a comprehensive experience. As an intern, you will engage with our team to gain hands-on experience in advanced scientific research, covering design, implementation, analysis, interpretation, and the translation of findings into national development policies and practices.

Introduction

Internship opportunities at ISER-N are crafted as educational experiences aimed at benefiting interns while contributing to our mission. Committed to training the next generation of scientists, ISER-N upholds world-class quality standards through rigorous peer reviews. As a not-for-profit organization dedicated to public interest, we focus on improving long-term human well-being and environmental conditions. Prior to arrival, students are encouraged to discuss course credit options with their University Faculty Supervisor. ISER-N supports various areas of education, welcoming students to bring schoolbooks relevant to their work. By joining our internship program, you actively contribute to our mission while gaining valuable experiences shaping your current and future endeavors.

General Objective

Our overarching goal is to broaden students' horizons by immersing them in diverse social and cultural worldviews. Exposure to various contexts and real-life experiences challenges pre-existing beliefs, fostering informed, critical thinkers capable of navigating and contributing to our complex society.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Provide hands-on research and training in high-quality social, environmental, and public health research in low-income settings.
- Offer training in data analysis and relevant statistical software. Provide practical learning opportunities across various organizational aspects.
- Develop interns as competent human resources for future professional work.
- Utilize interns' academic knowledge to enhance our work and learn from their expertise.
- Provide hands-on cultural exposure in Chitwan.
- Offer exposure to new social and cultural worldviews, contexts, and real-life experiences to stimulate innovative and intellectual thinking.

ABOUT ISER-N

ISER-N a premier research and development institute, established to address complex global social and environmental issues via high-quality scientific research. As a center for excellence, it provides a forum for constructive dialogue and the exchange of ideas, research, and scholarship among scholars, activists, practitioners, and policymakers. It's research, which spans multiple disciplines, focuses on addressing scientific questions that are fundamental to improving both human lives and environmental conditions.



CONTACT

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Intern Responsibilities

We strive to create an environment that fosters rewarding academic and career experiences. However, if an intern is unable to fulfill the responsibilities outlined below, the internship may be terminated without prior notice.

General responsibilities:

- Interns will collaborate closely with ISER-N researchers, collaborators, faculty, and staff on research projects covering a wide range of topics. These include population studies, family dynamics, social psychology, mental health, reproductive health, child health, education, aging, attitudes and behaviors, human-environment interaction, statistics, public policy, information science, public health, and new social science research methods. Depending on your interest and expertise this will include but not limited to preparing, tables and visual aids for research proposal and manuscript writing, research instrument development and review, design, translation, pretesting, validation, training on research methods, data collection techniques, data entry cleaning, management, manuscript and proposal preparation, and submission.
- As an intern, you will be a full-time (100%) position and expected to perform your duties with the highest ethical standards of integrity, accountability, respect, and excellence. You must adhere to ISER-N's research principles, which uphold democratic and ethical values, respecting the equal dignity of every human being. Confidentiality of research subjects, including respondents, their families, communities, and affiliated organizations, must be strictly maintained.

Specific responsibilities:

In order to provide comprehensive and rewarding experience all interns are expected to demonstrate and exercise utmost flexibility and a willingness to learn new techniques, methodologies, and tools relevant to the research project, and

- Participate in training programs on research methods, data collection techniques, data cleaning and data management.
- Engage in the collection of primary and secondary data through various research methods.
- Assist in processing lab specimen and maintain laboratory and other project equipment (laptops, phone), ensuring proper functionality and cleanliness, as appropriate.
- Assist in the design, translation, adoption and validation of data collection instruments, research protocol, informed consents, study description, and manuals and other relevant study materials.
- Prepare detailed reports on training, research protocols, research methodologies, and data collection process ensuring accuracy and clarity.
- Organize and analyze data using appropriate statistical or qualitative methods as required.
- Assist ISER-N researchers in each of steps of publication including conduct comprehensive literature reviews, data coding, linking and running descriptive analyses, preparing tables, checking citations.
- Prepare and deliver presentations on research progress and outcomes when appropriate.
- Collaborate with team members, sharing insights and participating in research discussions.
- Provide administrative assistance related to research projects, including scheduling, record-keeping, and coordination of team activities as and when required.
- Work collaboratively with senior researchers, fellow interns, and other team members to achieve project goals.
- Contribute constructively to team meetings and discussions.
- Provide regular updates on the progress of assigned tasks and promptly communicate any challenges or concerns.

Supervisor/Mentor

- ***Faculty Mentor at the home institution:***
The faculty mentor at the home institution will take an active role in helping the intern develop a detailed internship plan from home institution perspective that includes:
 - a) the objectives and specific activities to be achieved and duration,
 - b) the strategies for implementing these activities,
 - c) clear milestones marking each significant stage of achievement and time lines,
 - d) establish feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement, and
 - e) act as the liaison between the intern and the ISER-N.

The entire design of this plan should be oriented towards ensuring adherence to the highest possible quality standards, thus promoting an enriching and fruitful research internship experience.

- ***Faculty Mentor at ISER-N (host institution):***

As a Field Faculty Mentor (FFM), one important role is to offer constant guidance and mentorship to the research intern for the internship period. The FFM's role and responsibilities includes:

- i) reviewing and making necessary modification in the internship plan with the intern as per the ISER-N requirement.
- ii) overseeing the internship is progressing as planned, regularly following up, providing insightful feedback, and enhancing the intern's knowledge and skills within her/his internship plan.
- iii) offer necessary training pertaining to relevant research methods and tools and familiarize the intern with the ISER-N's regulations, ethical and conduct guidelines.
- iv) ensure interns have access to critical resources such as scientific literature, databases, and lab facilities, which are instrumental to the success of intern research.
- v) routinely evaluating the intern's performance and ensuring the milestones are achieved as originally planned, offering constructive critique, and communicating these evaluations to the corresponding Faculty Member at the home institution or internship coordinator.
- vi) stimulate intellectual discourse and invite the intern to interact with fellow researchers, faculty, and field professionals and local stakeholders.

The FFM will be responsible for the effective coordination and support of interns and serve as his/her immediate supervisor and mentor.

Eligibility:

The internship is open to Nepali citizens aged 18 and older who have completed a bachelor or higher degree from an accredited institution from Nepal or abroad.

Time Duration:

The internship generally lasts for three months, with a possibility of extension for an additional three months based on job performance and availability of funding.

Benefits:

Compensation: Monthly compensation ranges from NRs 20,000 (Bachelor level pass) to NRs 30,000 (Master level pass), subject to compliance with all federal, provincial, and local government laws, rules, and regulations.

Accommodation, Transportation, and Miscellaneous Expenses: While working at the ISER-N central office, interns are solely responsible for their accommodation, local transportation, and miscellaneous expenses. However, when traveling for fieldwork, ISER-N will cover transportation, accommodation, and job-related expenses.

Health insurance: Interns will be eligible to take part in ISER-N's employee accident insurance programs.

By participating in this program, the intern not only contributes to ISER-N's mission but also gains valuable experiences that shape their current and future endeavors. We encourage students to discuss course credit options with their University Faculty advisor before joining the program. Join us in this collaborative journey of exploration, learning, and contribution to societal well-being and environmental conditions.