

HOW TO TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER PLACEMENTS

FACULTY OF HEALTH

YORK UNIVERSITY

JULY 29, 2020



AGENDA

1:00-1:05 Introductions & Opening Remarks

1:05-1:45 Featured Guest: Mahad Shahzad, Chatting to Wellness

1:45-2:00 Discussion & Q & A

2:00-2:10 Setting up virtual student placements

2:10-2:25 Discussion & Q&A

2:25-2:30 Closing Remarks

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

York University is on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been taken care of by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Wendat, and the Métis. It is now home to many Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the current treaty holders and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.

ABOUT THE FACULTY OF HEALTH

York's Faculty of Health believes the key to the crisis in health care is to keep more people healthier, longer.

Our vision is to educate future global leaders in redefining and advancing health and human science.

Dr. Susan Murtha

Associate Dean

Learning, Teaching, Academic Programs

Six Degree Programs

Health Studies (Policy, Management, Informatics)

Global Health

Kinesiology & Health Science

Psychology

Neuroscience

Nursing

MAHAD SHAHZAD

Mahad Shahzad, a Schulich School of Business graduate, founded [Chatting to Wellness](#) in 2017 and has scaled it from a team of 3 (2017) to 650+ (2020). He leads the business in growth, strategy, and team management. He received the Top 40 Under 40 award in 2018 from the Brampton Board of Trade, and has been featured in CBC, Global News, Huffington Post, and a plethora of other media and news outlets. Shahzad is passionate about combining his skills in business and health care, to provide care to those who need it most.

HOW TO TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL STUDENT PLACEMENTS

PAOLA CALDERON-VALDIVIA

ANDA PETRO

WHY OFFER VIRTUAL PLACEMENTS?

- ✓ Opportunity to grow and diversify services
- ✓ Advance "backburner" or "passion" projects
- ✓ No office space required
- ✓ Host multiple students to increase capacity
- ✓ Mentor a future health professional
- ✓ Maintain relationships with University partners

SETTING UP VIRTUAL PLACEMENTS



Identify

Identify projects based on needs and priorities



Plan & Structure

Plan & structure the project



Prepare

Prepare for onboarding, training and supervision



Being Flexible

Expect to adapt to changes

IDENTIFY PROJECTS

- Assess needs and priorities
 - Consider the student's learning objectives
- Think organization-wide and across departments
- ✂️ • Consider diverse projects
 - E.g. COVID-19-related, organizational, programs & services, collaborations, "back-burner" projects
- Consider hybrid placements
 - Mix of on-site and virtual work
- Consider hosting the student collaboratively with other organizations



PLAN & STRUCTURE



- Identify & communicate requirements
 - Discuss matching process and required student knowledge & and skills with placement coordinator



- Outline remote workspace/equipment requirements
- Outline expectations
 - Use the student learning plan or project charter
 - Outline: expected hours, responsibilities, project milestones and deadlines
- Make a list of additional/alternate tasks
 - The student can pick these up during down-time or between projects



ONBOARDING & TRAINING

- ✂️ • Prepare an onboarding plan
 - Collaborate with University placement coordinator
- Assign supervisory and support roles
 - Point person for quick questions vs. project lead
- Pre-record orientation content where possible
- Leverage existing online training modules
 - York University (WHIMIS, COVID safety, human rights, equity, privacy etc.)
 - Ontario Public Health (health promotion, health communication, etc.)



TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS

Plan

- Connect with IT to set up the student with necessary technology, access to shared drives, etc.
- Note: Universities provide access to some software for students

Communicate Expectations

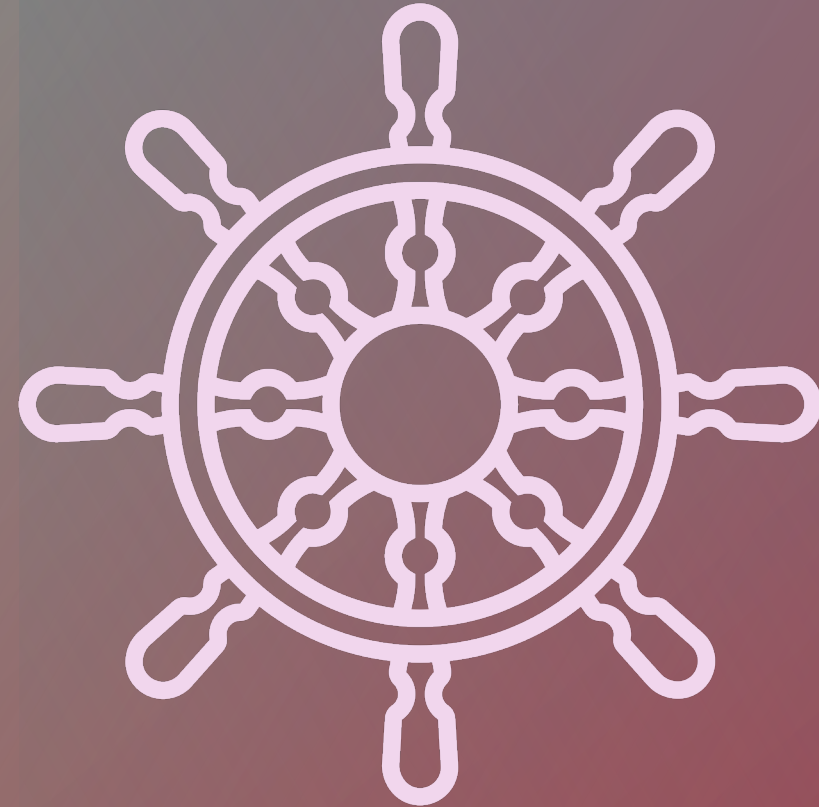
- Workspace: privacy, security of connection, internet speed
- Communication norms (e-mail vs. messaging; video vs. voice calls)

Offer Support

- Expect varying levels of higher tech competence
- Where possible, make manuals or instructional videos available or refer students to the University for support

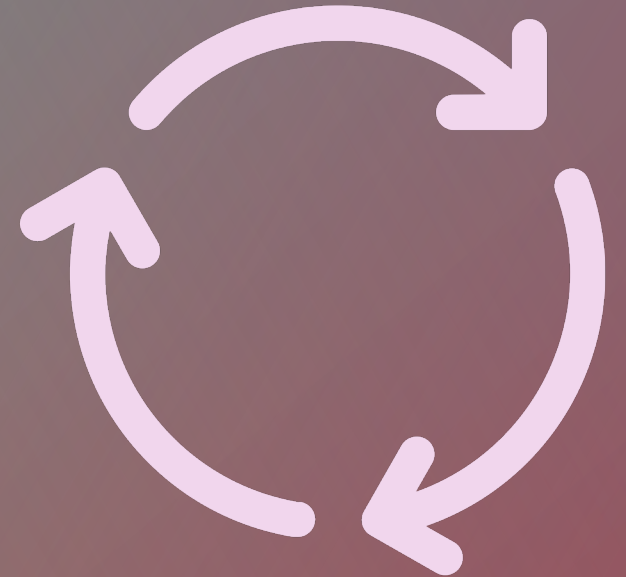
SUPERVISION

- ✂️ • Communicate openly and often
 - Work the student learning plan
 - Schedule daily online check-ins
 - Provide ongoing feedback & reiterate expectations
- Promote team culture
 - Use collaboration platforms (e.g. Teams)
 - Invite student to virtual staff meetings
- Encourage participation
 - Invite students to ask questions, share ideas
- ✂️ • Review evaluation expectations
 - Adjust components that cannot be captured virtually



BEING FLEXIBLE

- Consider creative placement options
 - Hybrid placements
 - Host a Powerhouse Team- students support each other & generate their own answers
- Have a contingency plan
 - How might the projects be impacted if on-site work resumes or moves from field to virtual?
- Offer alternatives or suggestions
 - Consider changes that may optimize your experience
- Ask us for resources
 - We are here to support both you and the students





HEALTH-RELATED PROJECTS

COVID-19 Related

- Develop and maintain a COVID-19 resource page

Transition to Virtual/Remote Engagement

- Develop remote working policies & procedures (e.g. privacy, access, etc.)
- Facilitate virtual alternatives to services/programs (e.g. virtual exercise class, etc.)

Collaborative Projects

- Establish a network or community of practice in your profession

Organizational Development

- Review and update infection prevention & control policies and procedures

Research Projects

- Recruit participants for studies & assist with writing abstracts, manuscripts and reports

RESOURCES

- [Faculty of Health Experiential Education](#)- Tools, resources and templates
- [CEWIL Canada](#)- Tip Sheets & Resources for Supervisors of Work-Integrated Learning & Coop placements
- [Volunteer Toronto](#)- Resource library, recorded presentations and tools for Virtual Volunteering during COVID-19
- [Charity Village](#)- List of resources, including free webinars, for the non-profit sector

OTHER
RESOURCES
OF INTEREST

HEALTHCARE
STUDENT
WORK
PLACEMENT
PROGRAM
(SWPP)

- Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) is an initiative to increase student job-readiness by subsidizing wages for students hired for work-integrated learning.

More Information

[Magnet](#)

[BioTalent Canada](#)

- Employment Ontario Programs

[Hire a young person](#)

QUESTIONS?

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