Student & Professional Programs
2022-2023
Student & Professional Programs

1. Executive Fellowship
5. MPH Practicum Program
8. Summer Executive Internship
10. Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential (APPE) Rotation
Executive Fellowship

The PQA Postdoctoral Executive Fellowship serves to produce the next generation of leaders in healthcare quality through a full-time, 12-month program based in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The Executive Fellow collaborates with a wide variety of stakeholders at a national level to impact the quality of care patients receive. The program’s foundation begins with the applicant’s interests to foster the development of core skill sets in:

- Project Management
- Quality Metric Design & Implementation
- Non-profit and Association Management
- Healthcare Quality Research

“The PQA Executive Fellowship has given me an exceptionally unique and comprehensive understanding of our nation’s health care system and the ever-increasing emphasis on value. Collaborating with the diverse PQA membership and leadership has supported my professional growth beyond the Fellowship, and set my career path on a trajectory for success.”

- Maria Scarlatos, PharmD, CPHQ; PQA Executive Fellow 2014-2015
Executive Fellowship

The Executive Fellow must hold a doctoral degree (PharmD, MD or PhD) within the United States (or plan to secure a doctoral degree within 6 months) from an accredited program. Incoming Fellows are encouraged to complete applicable professional licensing requirements prior to beginning the Fellowship but no later than October 1st of the Fellowship year.

Availability for phone and onsite interviews are required. Select candidates will be offered an onsite interview scheduled for early-mid January. Onsite interview travel expenses will be offset by a modest stipend.

PQA seeks individuals with the following attributes:

- Commitment to improving the quality of medication use
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to work independently and in a collaborative environment
- Strong writing and public speaking skills
- Ability to effectively manage multiple projects concurrently

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform accessible via the PQA website:

- One page cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Official transcript from an academic institution
- Writing sample
- Two letters of recommendation

Learn more here about PQA’s Executive Fellowship
During his fellowship, Chris created and implemented a continuing education course regarding medication use quality in HIV. Chris' first post upon fellowship completion was Associate Director of Stakeholder Engagement at Pharmacy Quality Alliance.

Chris Kotschevar, PharmD, CPHQ
2020-2021 Executive Fellow

During her fellowship, Hannah created and implemented a professional development curriculum for students. Upon fellowship completion, Hannah joined Healthfirst in the Medicare department in New York City.

Hannah Lee-Brown, PharmD
2018-2019 Executive Fellow

During her fellowship, Nicolette created and launched a student competition to promote team-based, interdisciplinary scholarship. Nicolette's first post upon fellowship completion was Director of Quality Measurement at National Quality Forum.

Nicolette Mehas, PharmD, CPHQ
2017-2018 Executive Fellow

Learn more here about PQA's Executive Fellowship Alumni
How to Apply

1. Assess eligibility
   - Healthcare-related doctoral candidate (PharmD, PhD, MD)
   - Commitment to improving the quality of medication use
   - Strong work ethic
   - Ability to work independently and in a collaborative environment
   - Strong writing and public speaking skills
   - Ability to effectively manage multiple projects concurrently

2. Submit Required Materials
   Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform accessible via the PQA website:
   - One page cover letter
   - Curriculum vitae
   - Official transcript from an academic institution
   - Writing sample
   - Two letters of recommendation

Timeline

- **SEPTEMBER**: Applications Open
- **DECEMBER 13**: Applications Due
- **MID-DECEMBER**: Interviews
- **MID-JANUARY**: Onsite Interviews
- **LATE JANUARY**: Announcements
PQA offers internship opportunities and field experience to MPH students across all public health disciplines. Working from a national platform in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area, or remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, practicum students are immersed in the healthcare quality landscape with a focus on appropriate medication use, safety and patient experience. Development of core skillsets in the following areas is a key feature of the program.

- Health Services Research Methods
- Research Communications
- Quality Measurement
- Diverse Stakeholder Engagement

Each practicum offering is tailored to meet the goals and objectives of the intern's graduate program while aligning with PQA’s current initiatives, and will also include the following:

- Earning PQA's Medication Use Quality Certificate
- Completing 5 Professional Development Workshop Modules
- Delivering final presentation to the PQA Team

The PQA MPH Practicum Program is a paid applied practice experience opportunity. Transportation, housing, and all other costs-of-living are the responsibility of the graduate participant.
MPH Program

PQA research fills evidentiary gaps in medication use quality, informs and evaluates the impact of quality measurement, and conducts pilot projects to evaluate the impact of novel solutions in the field.

Contribute to ongoing research initiatives throughout the project lifecycle which may include:

- Grant funding identification and writing
- Proposal development
- Literature review and evidence synthesis
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis
- Dissemination and communication initiatives
- Final report development

“I’ve heard about so many areas in public health: research, policy, behavior change, SDOH and health care. PQA’s MPH practicum program provided me the opportunity to learn about the intersection of all these areas and its impact on medication use safety, adherence, and appropriate use. I also saw the MPH practicum with PQA as an opportunity to learn new things, specifically how pharmacies play a role in improving population health. “

- Chyann Mealy, MPH Candidate 2021

Learn more here about PQA's MPH Practicum
How to Apply

1. Assess eligibility
   - Students actively enrolled in a Masters of Public Health program

2. Submit Required Materials
   Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform accessible via the PQA website:
   - One page cover letter describing
     - interest in the practicum
     - potential start date and length of time desired
     - career goals and how the PQA practicum will facilitate achieving those goals
   - Curriculum vitae

Timeline

Spring Rotation

- SEPTEMBER
  Applications Open
- OCTOBER 27
  Applications Due
- NOVEMBER
  Interviews
- EARLY DECEMBER
  Offers

Fall Rotation

- APRIL
  Applications Open
- MAY
  Applications Due
- JUNE
  Interviews
- JULY
  Offers
The PQA Summer Executive Internship, sponsored by Pharmacy Quality Solutions (PQS), is a competitive, paid summer executive internship that provides experience in non-profit association management with an emphasis on healthcare quality and a focus on:

- Member Communications
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Education
- Medication Use
- Quality Strategic Initiatives

"I’m drawn to the work of PQA because I believe it is essential for pharmacist-provided care to be value-based. Measure development resources allow pharmacists to work at the top of their profession, increasing their ability to offer patient-centered care."

-Kennadie Anderson, PharmD Candidate 2024

"After working as a pharmacy technician, I saw the importance of medication safety, adherence, and appropriate use and wanted to step away from the clinical side of pharmacies into the more behind-the-scenes side which ensures that quality care is being provided. Also, I aim to become a health care lawyer or work with health policy, so my overall interests lie in bettering our health care system."

-Sety Abooali, B.A. in Foreign Affairs Candidate 2024
Executive interns participate in an 8- to 12-week summer program that takes place in person at the Pharmacy Quality Alliance headquarters located in the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area or remotely. Hybrid approaches to the interns’ location are also possible. PQA’s strategic location provides an opportunity for interns to engage in current healthcare events and meet with pharmacists and other professionals in the healthcare quality field.

Internship activities vary depending on current initiatives and priorities. PQA works with each Executive Intern to align the experience with desired career goals and interests.

Transportation, housing, and all other costs of living are the responsibility of the student.

Students will spend one week of their internship remotely with PQS, a healthcare quality improvement company and a leading technology provider of pharmacy performance management services. During this week, students will have the opportunity to learn about quality measurement applications, performance management programs between payers and providers, and approaches to evaluating and improving care quality.
Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential (APPE) Rotation

PQA offers a competitive experiential rotation that provides opportunities in several focus areas, including:

- Non-profit and Association Management
- Medication Use Quality Education
- Member Communications
- Research & Performance Measurement

"What truly drew me to PQA was my lack of knowledge of what PQA's work encompasses. I had read on their website that they worked on quality metrics regarding adherence and medication use, but that was the extent of my knowledge. We learned about the importance of all these aspects in school, but I had never thought about who creates these metrics and how they are improved or implemented. Overall, my yearning for new experiences and my desire for learning new ideas really pushed me toward the PQA and their work."

- Aneesh Asokan, PharmD & MBA Candidate 2022
Selected students may choose to complete a rotation at the PQA headquarters located in the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. PQA’s strategic location provides an opportunity for students to engage in current healthcare events and meet with pharmacists and other professionals in the healthcare quality field. The rotation is available as a final-year elective to pharmacy students completing their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

APPE activities vary depending on current initiatives and priorities. PQA works with each student to align the experience with desired career goals and interests.

Transportation, housing, and all other costs of living are the responsibility of the student.

"I was inspired to participate in this rotation because I really wanted to explore what options there were in the pharmacy career path other than the traditional settings of residency or community setting pharmacy. Association management is one area of the industry that interests me, and I wanted to see how I, as a future pharmacist, could contribute to this ever-changing profession."

-Shiyar Kapan, PharmD Candidate 2022

Learn more here about PQA's APPE Rotation
How to Apply

1. Assess eligibility

**Internship:**
- Students actively enrolled in a healthcare-related undergraduate or graduate program or have a relevant degree or study concentration, such as health policy

**APPE**
- Final-year elective to pharmacy students completing their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences

2. Submit Required Materials

Candidates are required to submit the following materials through an online application platform for both the Summer Executive Internship and APPE accessible via the PQA website:

- One page cover letter and curriculum vitae
- Unofficial transcript from an academic institution
- One letter of recommendation
- APPE Candidates Only: Letter of approval from school or college's experiential program staff expressing permission to complete PQA's elective rotation

Timeline

- **SEPTEMBER** Applications Open
- **DECEMBER 1** Applications Due
- **JANUARY** Interviews
- **FEBRUARY 15** Offers