

## Undergraduate research year student to epidemiological research projects

The National Institute of Public Health is currently seeking master's students with a strong interest in epidemiological methods for an undergraduate research year.

Specific projects fall under one of two themes:

### 1. Environmental chemicals and breastfeeding

Maternal exposure to certain endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in the environment have been consistently associated with shorter duration of breastfeeding. Other EDCs have been linked to impaired mammary gland development in rodents, but many EDCs have never been examined in relation to breastfeeding. Using questionnaire data and measures of chemical exposures in biological samples from the American Health Outcomes and Measures of the Environment (HOME) study, the aim of the project is to identify potential associations between exposure to EDCs and subsequent ability to breastfeed using epidemiological and statistical methods.

You can read more about the project [here](#).

### 2. Alcohol and ambulance contacts

Alcohol causes several deaths each year due to chronic and severe diseases such as liver cirrhosis, pancreatitis and upper gastrointestinal cancers. Due to the acute intoxicating effects of alcohol causing impaired balance, increased reaction time and lack of judgment, alcohol is also associated with acute events such as falls and traffic accidents. This is however less investigated than the chronic aspects of alcohol drinking. In this project, we will use data derived from ambulances to investigate the nature and extent of ambulance discharges that are alcohol-related.

The undergraduate research project will be conducted at the National Institute of Public Health in Copenhagen. The project period will be 10 months from February 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. You can choose to do your master's thesis as part of the undergraduate research year, and you can apply for a scholarship of DKK 10,000 per month while on leave from your normal study program.

You will be part of the research group "Epidemiology and interventions" with researchers from different educational backgrounds e.g. biology, medicine, and public health. We have a broad research field, which includes studies on vaccines, alcohol, and environmental health, and we have a strong tradition for collaboration and support between peers. We wish to train excellent young researchers in skills not only related to epidemiology but also project management and other transferable skills. You will work independently with your own epidemiological project under supervision from PhD students and senior researchers.

Interested candidates are invited to an open online meeting, June 7<sup>th</sup> 2024, 14.00-15.00: [Meeting link](#). At the meeting, we will present the different undergraduate research projects along with experiences from a previous undergraduate research year student.

Applications for the undergraduate research year must include a motivation letter (max 1 page), a short CV, and transcript of passed exams. The application should be sent no later than June 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 to associate professor, Amalie Timmermann, [atimmermann@health.sdu.dk](mailto:atimmermann@health.sdu.dk).

Applicants must be enrolled at a relevant master's program (e.g. medicine, public health science, biology, or data science) at a Danish University. We welcome applications from all qualified candidates regardless of personal background and nationality.

If you are a student at University of Southern Denmark, you can find information about undergraduate research [here](#).