NOSM UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITÉ EMNO

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Graduate Student Opportunity

Master of Medical Studies (Thesis Option)
NOSM University

Patients Who Leave the Emergency Department Without Being Seen in Northern Ontario
Start Date: September 2027

I am recruiting a Master of Medical Studies (MMS) thesis student to join a two-site study of emergency department patients who leave without being seen in Northern Ontario, starting in September 2027. The student will work under my supervision and alongside an interdisciplinary team of emergency physicians, emergency department quality improvement leads, and epidemiologists. Both the research and the MMS program may be completed remotely.

The Project

Patients who leave the emergency department before being seen by a physician, referred to as left without being seen (LWBS), are an important indicator of access to timely care and patient safety, and their numbers have risen in recent years. Using ten years of emergency department data from two Northern Ontario hospitals, this project will describe trends in LWBS, identify patient characteristics and emergency department operational factors, such as physician scheduling, associated with LWBS, and examine return emergency department visits among patients who leave. Comparing two hospitals of different size and capacity will help distinguish region-wide patterns from site-specific ones. Findings will inform future staffing, scheduling, and patient-flow strategies across Northern Ontario.

What You Will Gain

- Hands-on experience analyzing two-site hospital emergency department data
- Training in epidemiological and quantitative methods
- Opportunities to present at conferences and publish in peer-reviewed journals
- Mentorship from an interdisciplinary team of clinicians and researchers

Ideal Candidate

- Interest in epidemiology, health services research, quantitative methods, and developing data analytical skills
- Interest in health inequalities and inequities and the social determinants of health
- Interest in emergency care and health system performance
- Eligible for the MMS thesis option: a bachelor's degree in a health sciences discipline (or equivalent) or an MD, with a minimum B (70%) average; open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents

About the MMS Program

NOSM University's Master of Medical Studies is a fully online, asynchronous graduate program for health professionals and health sciences graduates, with full-time and part-time study options. The program emphasizes socially accountable research that improves health outcomes in northern, rural, and remote communities. Thesis-stream students conduct original, clinically relevant research under faculty supervision and gain experience presenting and publishing their work. Learn more about the MMS program and the application process.

Funding

Funding and scholarship opportunities may be available. A guaranteed minimum stipend is conditional on the receipt of grant funding for the project, which is currently under review.

Contact

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact me with a CV, unofficial transcripts, and a brief statement of interest.

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