

AUB- FHS GRADUATE PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

GUIDELINES AND FAQs TO MPH STUDENTS TAKING PRACTICE EXPERIENCE COURSES SPRING 2020-21

A. Information here is for students doing ILE in Spring 2020-21.

The situation of COVID19 in Lebanon in the past couple of weeks has been evolving and we are not sure when it will be under control. The Health and Safety of the students are our main priority so we encourage students to complete the requirements of ILE II while staying safe.

During ILE II, and depending on the project type, students usually go to the host organization or the community where they are working for data collection and to discuss potential outputs or results. Due to COVID-19 and the involvement of some of the organizations in related efforts, the majority of the organizations have their staff working remotely half of the time or going to the office on a rotating shift basis. This may sometimes delay the feedback of ILE focal points to students on deliverables so patience is appreciated. Students are recommended to keep their advisors and second readers informed of the progress of their ILE project at all times.

We are not sure how the situation will unfold during the course of Spring term. Please keep following the news from AUB (Office of the President, Office of Student Affairs) and we will update this page whenever we have new information. Our updates will be adapted according to the University's guidance to ensure consistency.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What do I do if COVID-19 prevents my ILE from continuing?

If you cannot proceed with your ILE project as per the ILE plan, it is recommended that you discuss an alternative plan with your ILE advisor, second reader and when applicable, your ILE focal point.

2. What if my advisor or second reader is not available or I am unable to reach them by email?

ILE advisors and second readers are available as per an agreed plan or timeline with the students at the outset. If for some reason you are unable to reach your ILE advisor or second reader, you are strongly recommended to contact your academic advisor, the chair of department or ILE administrator Ms. Nida Helou.

3. What do I do if the ILE focal point suggests changing my project due to the current situation?

If the ILE focal point suggests amendments to the project, you are strongly advised to call for a meeting with your ILE advisor and second reader in the presence of the focal point to agree on the amendments and make sure they align with the ILE competencies. In this case, please submit a revised ILE plan to Ms. Nida Helou, cleared by the focal point and approved by ILE advisor and second reader.

4. What if I end up not being able to collect data?

If your ILE project involves primary data collection, and due to the situation, you or someone from the host organization are not able to collect the needed data, you should discuss an alternative plan with your ILE advisor and second reader preferably in the presence of or in coordination with your ILE focal point, keeping Ms. Nida Helou in the loop at all times. Again in this case, please submit a revised ILE plan to Ms. Nida Helou, cleared by the focal point and approved by ILE advisor and second reader.

B. Information here is for international TDR and MCF scholars due for ILE II in Spring2020-21

The majority of international TDR and MCF scholars are completing their ILE II at organizations in their home countries. You are strongly recommended to stay safe and follow the FAQs under section A. Those doing their ILE II while in Lebanon please refer to section A.

C. Information here is for students doing the Practicum in Spring 2020-21

Most of the organizations hosting students for the practicum are implementing social distancing and/or are working on a rotating shift basis. Students are recommended to follow the schedule of their preceptor to benefit from their presence in the office, and are expected to do their best to complete course requirements and learn from this experience while staying safe. The most important expectation is that students acquire the five competencies identified at the outset of the practicum even if they need to continue the practicum remotely.

Please keep following the news from AUB (Office of the President, Student Affairs Office) and we will update this page whenever we have new information. Our update will be adapted according to the University's guidance to ensure consistency.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What do I do if COVID-19 prevents my practicum from continuing?

If due to COVID19 you are not able to complete your hours as per the practicum plan, you are strongly recommended to meet with your practicum advisor and preceptor to discuss alternative activities in order to acquire the 5 practicum competencies while making sure you are staying safe. Keep track of the hours you dedicate to the practicum whether on site or remotely and take note of the activities implemented during that time. Also, make sure to communicate any changes to the practicum coordinator Ms. Nida Helou and explain all the changes in your practicum completion report.

2. What do I do if the preceptor suggests changing some practicum activities due to the current situation?

Under the unusual circumstances we are going through, everybody at FHS is trying to be flexible and to make sure that students strive to complete course requirements, acquire competencies and produce good quality outputs. If the preceptor suggests amendments to the activities, make sure to consult your practicum advisor to make sure the new activities align with the competencies. Report any amendments to the practicum coordinator and mention them in the practicum completion report.

3. What if my advisor or preceptor is not available or I am unable to reach them by email?

It is recommended that you set up a meeting with your practicum advisor and preceptor ahead of time. However, if for some reason you are not able to reach your advisor and/or preceptor, you are strongly advised to contact the practicum coordinator at the earliest.

4. If I learn that someone at the practicum site tested positive for COVID 19, what do I do?

The safety of our students is our priority. Accordingly, if you feel exposed at the practicum site, communicate your concern to your preceptor, practicum advisor and practicum coordinator the soonest, and follow AUB University Health Services guidance. Do not worry, you will be advised to complete your practicum hours remotely.

For tips on studying during COVID-19, you can check COVID-19 tips on the webpage of the AUB Student Affairs Office: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/SAO/Pages/COVID-19-Tips.aspx>. For COVID-19 Updates by the AUB Expert Committee on COVID-19 please see: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/emergency/Pages/covid19-faq.aspx>

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