

Call for master's students: Research year in epidemiology

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

Comorbidity among cancer patients with intellectual disability

The project aims to assess the prevalence and patterns of comorbidities among cancer patients with intellectual disability (ID) in contrast to cancer patients without ID.

ID is characterized by limitations in intellectual and adaptive functioning, with severity ranging from mild to profound - mild ID being most common. It is well-known that the presence of comorbidity influences cancer treatment options, and that people with ID have complex health profiles. However, no studies have examined the patterns of comorbidity in cancer patients with ID. This study aims to address this gap, providing evidence to inform clinical guidelines for this population.

The study is based on data from Danish registers. We have already established a large cohort of people with ID. We will use The Danish Cancer Registry to identify individuals with and without ID who have been diagnosed with incident cancer in the timespan from 2000 and onwards. Comorbidity will comprise the most common non-communicable diseases; for example, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, and psychiatric disorders, measured through hospital-based diagnoses and prescription medication data from the National Patient Register and the National Prescription Registry for the five years preceding cancer diagnosis.

Practicalities

The undergraduate research project will be conducted at the National Institute of Public Health in Copenhagen. The project period will be 6 months from September 1, 2025. You can choose to do your master's thesis as part of the undergraduate research year, and you can apply for a [scholarship](#) while on leave from your study program.

You will join the [Public Health Epidemiology](#) research group, collaborating with experts across disciplines. While working independently on your project under senior supervision, you will also contribute to a larger collaborative study. More information about the entire project [\[here\]](#).

Applications for the undergraduate research year must include a short motivation letter, a CV, and transcript of passed exams. The application should be sent no later than February 15, 2025, to associate professor, Trine Allerslev Horsbøl (tria@sdu.dk). You are very welcome to send an email, if you have any questions.

Applicants must be enrolled at a relevant master's program (e.g. medicine, public health science, or health science) at University of Southern Denmark. We welcome applications from all qualified candidates regardless of personal background and nationality. You can find information about undergraduate research [\[here\]](#).