

Why become a **FIELD INSTRUCTOR?**

Field Instructors are an **integral part of McMaster's School of Social Work**. They provide valuable learning opportunities in a social work setting for students to grow in their practice and deepen their engagement with the communities in which they live and study.

Participation as a Field Instructor helps support the next generation of social workers in the essential work of supporting people and communities.

All of our placements are offered within a 100 km radius of McMaster.

WHY INSTRUCT A MCMASTER SOCIAL WORK STUDENT?

- The McMaster School of Social Work values community
- We have chosen to stay **local** because we believe in investing in our **community**
- We teach about issues important in this region and this territory in our classrooms
- Our field team meets **individually** with each student before starting placement to match them to a placement setting best for the student and instructor
- We believe in developing and growing **relationships** with the local social service community
- Our seminar leaders **personally** visit each Field Instructor and student twice per term at their field settings because we know field education is a **partnership**
- If concerns or difficulties arise in placement, we are available for **support**
- Our field team has years of practice **experience** in this community and are **deeply committed** to strengthening local social and community services.

MCMASTER FIELD INSTRUCTOR BENEFITS

- An opportunity to teach the next generation of social workers
- Exclusive library privileges to access online journals from your desktop
- An annual recognition breakfast to thank our Field Instructors
- Free educational forums, discussing current topics in the field
- Networking opportunities with other social workers in the community who are also committed to field instruction
- Free Field Instructor training sessions to assist with teaching students (offered to both first-time and returning Field Instructors)
- An opportunity to join the Field Education Committee
- Long-time Field Instructors can apply for an Adjunct Teaching appointment
- Annual conferring of the Sheila Sammon Award for Excellence in Field Instruction

Field Instructors have the flexibility to instruct 390 hours:

2
days per week
from
Sept. to April

or

4
days per week in
Spring/Summer
or Fall

"The first time I felt like I really belonged at my placement was the day that my field instructor turned to me and said, '**students at McMaster's School of Social Work set the standard for social work students everywhere.**'"

Hearing my instructor provide such positive feedback helped to instill a sense of confidence that was only strengthened by how wonderful it felt to be a member of such a special population.

That day I felt like I belonged. I also remember thinking to myself that I couldn't wait to make another McMaster social work student feel the same way."

~Salomeh Mohajer MSW, RSW



REQUIREMENTS FOR FIELD INSTRUCTION

- a BSW, MSW or MA (SWP)
- two years post degree practice experience
- an interest in teaching/mentoring students
- one Level 1 Field Instructors course offered at no charge by the School within the first 2 years of instructing

* In settings where an experienced staff member does not have a social work degree but is willing to act as a Field Instructor the School will arrange for the student to be co-instructed by a "mentor" who holds a BSW, MSW or MA (SWP)