

Call for master's students: Research year in epidemiology

The National Institute of Public Health invites applications from motivated master's students with a strong interest in epidemiological methods for an undergraduate research year project.

Morbidity among people with intellectual disability

The project aims to examine the prevalence and patterns of somatic and psychiatric morbidity and multimorbidity among people with intellectual disability (ID) across the life course, compared with people 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 people with ID have complex health profiles, yet few studies have systematically examined patterns of somatic and psychiatric morbidity in this population, and none have done so across the entire lifespan. The project aims to address this gap, providing evidence to inform prevention and health promotion strategies among people with ID.

The project is based on nationwide Danish register data. We have established a large cohort of people with ID. Morbidity will be measured through hospital-based diagnoses and prescription medication data from the National Patient Register and the National Prescription Registry. The project will cover a broad range of conditions, including common non-communicable diseases (e.g. type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, cancer, and depression) as well as conditions more prevalent among people with ID, such as epilepsy and schizophrenia.

Research environment

The project will be conducted at the National Institute of Public Health in Copenhagen. You will join the [Public Health Epidemiology](#) research group and work independently on your own project under senior supervision, while contributing to a [larger collaborative study](#). Working from home is possible for up to two days per week.

Project period and funding

The project period is six months, starting on September 1, 2026. You can apply for a [scholarship](#) while on leave from your study programme. It is possible to complete your master's thesis based on the project (spring semester 2027).

Application

Applicants must be enrolled in a relevant master's programme (e.g. medicine, public health science, or health science) at the University of Southern Denmark. Applications are welcome from all qualified candidates regardless of personal background or nationality. The application must include:

- A short motivation letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Transcript of passed examinations

Applications may be written in Danish or English and must be sent no later than February 28, 2026 to Associate Professor Trine Allerslev Horsbøl (tria@sdu.dk).

Further information about undergraduate research is available [here](#).