

Undergraduate research year student in epidemiological research projects

The National Institute of Public Health is currently seeking master's students with a strong interest in epidemiology for an undergraduate research year. Deadline for application is 31 January 2026.

Research year students are invited to join one of the following two projects:

1. Modelling the global prevalence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders

Alcohol use during pregnancy is the direct cause of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). FASD includes conditions such as permanent brain damage, congenital anomalies, growth restrictions, and behavioural, emotional, and cognitive functioning deficits. It is a severe and chronic condition that is fully preventable due to its unique cause. Yet, little is known about the prevalence of alcohol use during pregnancy or FASD. This project seeks to fill this research gap by conducting an updated systematic literature review and estimating the national, regional, and global prevalence of both alcohol use during pregnancy and FASD using statistical modelling.

2. Alcohol consumption per capita and violence

Acute alcohol exposure is one in many risk factors that can lead to violence. However, alcohol's association with violence is complex and its contribution may vary by different types of violence (e.g., interpersonal violence, intimate partner violence). It further remains unclear whether population-level consumption is associated with violence and would thus reflect a useful target in violence prevention. This project examines whether per capita alcohol consumption and violence are associated and how this association may differ by type of violence. Following an ecological study design, data from international organisations will be analysed using regression-based methods.

Interested candidates are invited to an **online information meeting on 7 January 2026, 15.00-16.00: [Meeting link](#)**. At the meeting, we will present the programme and share experiences from previous undergraduate research year students.

The undergraduate research project will be conducted at the National Institute of Public Health in Copenhagen. The project period is 6 months **starting August/September 2026** and you can choose to do your Master's thesis as part of the undergraduate research year. You can apply for a scholarship while on leave from your regular study program ([Graduate School of Health Sciences](#)).

You will be part of the research group "Epidemiology and interventions" with researchers from different educational backgrounds e.g. psychology, medicine, and public health. We have a broad research interest, which includes studies on alcohol, health inequalities, and environmental health, and we have a strong tradition for collaboration and support between peers. We seek to train excellent young researchers not only in epidemiology but also in project management and other transferable skills. You will work mostly independently on your own project under supervision from Assistant Professor Dr. Carolin Kilian.

Application process: Please send a motivation letter (max 1 page), a short CV, and your transcript of records to Dr. Carolin Kilian, caki@sdu.dk, no later than **31 January 2026**. All documents must be submitted in English. Interviews will take place early February.

Applicants must be enrolled at a relevant master's program (e.g. medicine, public health science, biology, or data science) at a Danish University. We welcome applications from all qualified candidates regardless of personal background and nationality. The working language is English, and the Master's thesis must be submitted in English.

For questions, please email Dr. Carolin Kilian, caki@sdu.dk.