



Student Placement Opportunity

Position: LGBTQ Refugee Program Planning Students
(1 student annually)

Program: Settlement Department

Reports to: LGBTQ Newcomer Community Services Coordinator

About The 519

The 519 is a City of Toronto agency committed to the health, happiness and full participation of LGBTQ individuals and communities. Through our innovative model of Service, Space and Leadership, The 519 strives to make a real difference in people's lives, while working to promote broader inclusion, understanding and respect.

Programs related to this placement

[Among Friends LGBT Refugee Support Program](#): Among Friends provides LGBTQ Refugee Claimants to Canada with a wide range of services, support group workshops/information sessions and social programs.

Purpose of this placement

The Among Friends' *Placement Student* supports the Program Coordinator to plan and deliver weekly programs, research and maintain current and relevant resources, work from anti-oppression principles, and personally/professionally build knowledge and skill to affirm the dignity and self-determination of our participants who have complex identities, communities and experiences.

Responsibilities

- Work with a team to create a welcoming space for LGBTQ refugee claimants
- Collaboratively build interactive conversation circle workshops to meet the needs, interests and goals of program participants
- Promote conversation and engagement within the program to share knowledge and develop cross-cultural awareness
- Facilitate activities to help understand participant needs
- Provide support in researching and navigating community resources to help refugee claimants be involved directly in their communities
- Maintain and set up information/resource tables during weekly programs
- Report to staff on program plans and participant levels/attendance
- Prepare copies of learning materials
- Support emerging learning needs of the group
- Set up and pull down programming spaces and equipment
- Put theory into practice and reflect on what works well, potential improvements, and personal learning
- Assist with projects outside of program time if desired

Skills and Experience

- Experience in program/event planning and implementation
- Experience with and/or knowledge of group facilitation
- Ability to work as part of a team in a supportive manner with enthusiasm and energy
- Ability to approach and support community members in a welcoming and friendly manner
- Knowledge of commonly used services and life skills (e.g. TTC, grocery shopping, education systems, health services, free/low cost entertainment and recreation)
- Possess strong communication skills
- Possess a desire to help affirm and celebrate LGBTQ newcomers/refugee claimants
- Possess a non-judgmental attitude
- Able to arrive on time; must give agency sufficient notice if they will be absent
- Able to become familiar with The 519's policies and procedures and follow them

Assets

- An understanding of some of the unique needs of newcomers and how they may be compounded by having diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, cultures, spiritualities, religions, and experiences of prejudices and hate.
- Lived experience as a newcomer, immigrant or refugee to Toronto
- Lived experience as an LGBTQ person and within Toronto's LGBTQ communities
- Experience as a participant or volunteer in social groups or organizations for LGBTQ newcomers
- Knowledge of programs and services for LGBTQ newcomers

From empowerment and connectedness perspectives we especially encourage the placement of students who are able to identify as peers of participants.

Time Commitment

September to April for a minimum of 15 hours per week

Required Student Attendance: Wednesdays, 2:00pm to 10:00pm

Interviews, Training and Orientation

Successful applicants must be available for interviews and training and will be contacted for an interview with the LGBTQ Newcomer Community Services Coordinator.

Training will include a general orientation to the history, values, policies and space of The 519, and specific program needs and practices.

Application Instructions

Submit an application, cover letter and resume to StudentOpportunities@the519.org.