

**Buffett Undergraduate Research Fellowship Opportunity**

*Global Learning and Linking Opportunities to Bring Equity into Learning Health Systems (GLLOBE-LHS)*

**Faculty Mentor:** Faith Summersett Williams, Assistant Professor, Feinberg School of Medicine

**Project Synopsis:** Despite significant advances in medical science and healthcare systems, health inequities remain a major challenge across the globe. The healthcare system in Europe, designed to be universal, still faces significant gaps between evidence and policy responses to health inequities. This is true in Switzerland, where although the healthcare system is designed to be universal, independently governed healthcare regions create unequal access to healthcare services and differences in health outcomes, particularly for minoritized groups. To address these disparities, researchers from the University of Lucerne and Northwestern University have partnered to design and implement a course focused on health equity in the context of Learning Health Systems.

Building on work started in 2024, this project will focus on the co-creation and implementation of a health equity course designed to provide early-career doctoral researchers and professionals in Switzerland with the tools and strategies necessary to effectively incorporate equity-driven approaches into their work. Research Fellows will gain experience in each step of this process, including the co-creation of the course (using the co-creation of curriculum method and the Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, Evaluation, or ADDIE, model), evaluation of the co-creation process using a modified Delphi approach, implementation of the course at the University of Lucerne, and evaluation of the course based on participant and implementation outcomes, including qualitative interviews with course learners to better understand their experiences, perceived relevance, and application of course content. Research Fellows will gain valuable skills in collaborative design and evaluation tools from an international perspective, all while contributing to the creation of a course aimed to empower learners in Switzerland and Europe to apply health equity principles in their evolving, evidence-based healthcare system.

**Project Term:** Summer and Academic Year 2026

**Project Location:** Hybrid, off campus with travel to Lucerne, Switzerland

**Job Description:** The Implementation science + Health Equity Advancement Lab (I+HEAL) in the Department of Pediatrics is seeking motivated undergraduate students to assist with research on the Global Learning and Linking Opportunities to Bring Equity into Learning Health Systems (GLLOBE-LHS) project. This position is ideal for students interested in mental health, health systems research, global health, health equity, and implementation science. The research assistant will gain hands-on experience with data collection, analysis, and literature review while contributing to an ongoing project focused on making health systems more equitable and effective.

**Responsibilities:**

- Conduct literature searches and summarize academic articles relevant to health systems, global health, and equity.
- Assist with data entry, organization, and basic analysis using [insert software, e.g., Excel, SPSS, Python].
- Help design and distribute surveys related to health system practices and policies.
- Code qualitative data from interviews or focus groups.
- Attend regular meetings to discuss research progress and findings.
- Assist with writing summaries or preparing presentations based on research findings.

**Required Skills:**

- Strong attention to detail and ability to follow instructions.
- Basic experience with Canva and Excel. Training can be provided.
- Strong writing and communication skills.
- Interest in global health, health equity, mental health, and implementation science.
- Ability to work independently and manage time effectively.

This position offers an opportunity to develop research skills in a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment while contributing to efforts to improve health equity globally. No prior research experience is required, but a willingness to learn and engage with the material is essential.

**Time Commitment:** The position requires a commitment of 6 hours per week in the I+HEAL lab during Summer 2026 and throughout the 2026-2027 academic year. Additionally, applicants must be available to attend weekly lab meetings on Thursdays from 2-3 PM at the I+HEAL lab, located at 1440 N. Dayton Street in downtown Chicago.

**Number of available positions:** One preselected, one open job search

