

Talk It Out Counselling Clinic, FIFSW
Remote/Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
Year 2 Students
September 2024- April 2025

Please provide a description of the practicum site and student activities:

Get ready for an incredible opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the lives of others! As a student in this practicum, you'll have the chance to directly connect with clients through: 1) virtual counseling services, and 2) innovative, community-based interventions that can be delivered virtually or in person.

But that's not all - you'll also get to collaborate with a range of community organizations, including Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre, Jane Finch Centre, LOFT, Parkdale Community Legal Services, TAIBU Community Health Centre, and Unison Community Health & Community Services, just to name a few. We are also creating new initiatives with UofT's Kinesiology and Physical Education and the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness.

Imagine the impact you'll have as you provide individual counseling services through video therapy or phone, supporting individuals who face multiple challenges to find their path to wellness. And if you're craving in-person interactions, this practicum also provides in-person elements such as conducting one-off workshops and ongoing group sessions with seniors and other community residents.

What truly sets this opportunity apart is our focus on serving communities that face health and equity challenges, as well as Black and other racialized communities in the Greater Toronto Area. The Clinic also offers ongoing in-service training opportunities that take students through the therapeutic process and attend to any emerging issues risen from client work. By joining our team, you'll be at the forefront of promoting equality and making a lasting impact on these communities.

While prior experience in mental health, distress centers, or working with our target populations is a plus, we're also looking for self-directed individuals who can thrive both in a team and independently. So, if you're ready to take on this exciting and rewarding challenge, don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others!

This practicum primarily focuses on direct practice. Students will:

1. Carry a caseload of clients; leading intake, assessment and counselling sessions
2. Facilitate in person and virtual workshops and group programming to community residents and agency staff
3. Attend weekly team meetings for discussion of their cases and processing in the large group
4. Participate in learning opportunities such as orientation, weekly supervisions (individual and group supervision in alternate weeks), case conferences, and in-service training

5. Complete assigned readings to complement their work and their learning in classes

In addition, **students will be involved in various indirect practice initiatives**, including but not limited to, working with community partners to create new initiatives, participating in community advocacy, and assisting with the Clinic's administrative tasks.

Practicum Requirements. Click on all the boxes that apply.

- Police Reference/Vulnerable Sector Check
- Lived experience/Current member of the community being served- Preference for candidates who are members of the BIPOC communities and 2SLGBTQ+
- Evening attendance- The Clinic's operational hours are: Wednesday & Thursday 12:00pm – 8:00pm; Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Fields of Study:

- Children and their Families
- Mental Health & Health
- Social Justice & Diversity
- Social Work in Gerontology
- Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency

Does your practicum require any previous experience? If yes, please specify.

Past counselling and peer-support experiences are helpful to have, but are not a requirement. Previous lived experience as a racialized individual and/or experience working with racialized communities are helpful to have and preference will be given to these applicants, but is not a requirement.

Please indicate whether this practicum will be in-person, remote or hybrid.

Remote with hybrid component. The Clinic operates virtually, however Wednesdays are an optional in-person day and some of the community groups/programs may be in person.

This site offers practicum 3 days a week throughout the entire practicum. Students who complete Spring/Summer practicum will finish in late August or early September at a pre-negotiated time with the supervisor and the Clinic Director. The Clinic's operational hours are: Wednesday & Thursday 12:00pm – 8:00pm; Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm.

The first two to three weeks of practicum will be student orientation. Attendance is required 9:00am to 5:00pm Wednesday to Friday.

Please indicate whether this practicum will involve direct work or a mix of direct and indirect.

Both

Field Instructor(s)' name and credentials (BSW and/or MSW)

Shawnette Thompson, BSW, MSW

Aamir Subhan, MSW

Kirstin Cohen, BSW, MSW

Do you require a resume? Or resume and cover letter?

Resume and Cover letter

Accessibility Considerations:

- Will the student have access to a private space for notes or computer use? No
 - Most of the work is performed remotely, students must be able to access private spaces with reliable internet access.
- Are there breaks between clients/patients/meetings? Yes
 - Students are responsible for planning their breaks as the practicum is virtual. We ask students not to schedule clients back to back.
- Is the practicum considered fast-paced? Medium
- Is there a high noise level in the practicum? Low
 - Students will mostly conduct practicum in their own work place.
- Is the site wheelchair accessible? Yes
- What are the physical demands of the practicum?
 - Given that the practicum opportunity is primarily virtual, students should expect long periods of time spent on screens with cameras on:
 - in sessions
 - in team meetings
 - trainings
 - individual supervision
 - in person attendance for some workshops and group programming at our community partner sites (e.g., Jane/Finch area, Scarborough, etc.)
- Are there any other accessibility considerations that potential applicants with disabilities should be aware of?
 - Students need to complete **all chart notes and reports on a timely fashion** for clients assigned to them, as this is part of professional and ethical conduct, and accountability to client welfare. While we will do our best to accommodate individual student needs, we are unable to support accommodations that exempt students from this requirement.

Students registered with University of Toronto Accessibility Services may receive appropriate accommodations for practicum settings. To register: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/> or call 416-978-8060.

If you are interested in this practicum, please send a cover letter and resume to alexi.sparaggis@utoronto.ca by 4 pm on April 23, 2024. Applications will be forwarded on to the site.