Summer Research Internship Seminar

This document describes the content and structure of a seminar series for SM2 students in Global Health and Population who are preparing for the Summer Research Internship. The seminar will be held during the spring semester for 1st year students, and walk students through the task of developing a plan for their summer internship, documented in a proposal to be submitted before the end of the semester. The general intent of the seminar is to formalize the task of planning a small project related to Global Health research, and expose students to the skills needed to operationalize a project and successfully undertake fieldwork. The content of the seminar covers 4 domains:

(i) Proposal development / project planning
   Being able to write a compelling proposal can be important for attracting support for a project or developing consensus among stakeholders. These sessions will review techniques for developing a written proposal for a small research project.

(ii) Exposure to specific fieldwork techniques and experiences
   These sessions will expose students to some of the operational challenges and concerns of fieldwork, topics that might not be covered in formal courses.

(iii) Issues related to personal conduct and safety
   These sessions will cover aspects of how to manage personal safety and professional relationships in the field.

(iv) Presentation
   These sessions will allow students to get feedback on their internship plans and think through how to present those plans to others.

Over the course of the semester students will develop a proposal describing their plans for the internship, to be submitted at the end of the semester. These proposals will be short, but include the major features of the proposed internship. In the proposal the student will describe how their internship contributes to the knowledge base or some other health need, specific objectives, methods to be used, and activities to be undertaken to achieve the objectives, including a budget and timeline. The proposal will also pull together materials required by the degree program as part of internship preparation (e.g. support letter from host organization, confirmation that the plans meet the internship requirements). In addition to this proposal, students will also have to submit a short update on their internship plans at the end of the Spring 1 term, and give a short presentation of these plans in early April (see schedule for dates).