The London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) offers a comprehensive Dietetic Internship Program to eight students. Dietetic interns will have an opportunity to practice dietetics in the most current clinical and food services environment.

Our Program offers many interesting and challenging opportunities for professional and personal growth, in an innovative and supportive learning environment. Interns will be active participants in this learning journey!

Dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, and research, LHSC has a capacity of 1049 beds, 36 bassinets and includes the Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario as well as two community-based Family Medical Centres. Our affiliation with Western University and others schools supports education and research in an interprofessional environment.

LHSC is one of Canada’s largest multi-site teaching hospitals. Visit http://www.lhsc.on.ca/ for additional information about our organization. As part of our healthy workplace focus, interns will have access to our onsite fitness program.

**Internship Program**

Our program offers experiences to support eight interns to develop competence in Professional Practice, Communication and Collaboration, Nutrition Care, Population and Public Health and Management consistent with The Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice.

The Dietetic Internship Program is **forty-three weeks** in length, beginning in October, and finishing in August of the following year. At times, an extension of the program may be required to allow individual interns to complete the required competencies.
Clinical Nutrition

Clinical Nutrition is committed to high quality education and research. Clinical dietitians, at London Health Sciences Centre are respected members of inter-professional health care teams. Clinical Nutrition Services are provided via a program model for patient care. The dietitians are recognized for their expertise in nutritional assessments and for specific nutrition interventions. Our community partners also support dietetic intern training in specialized clinical areas including diabetes and Long Term Care.

Examples of clinical placements opportunities include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Care</th>
<th>Cardiac Care</th>
<th>Children’s Care</th>
<th>Clinical Neuroscience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Care</td>
<td>Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Long Term Care</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>Renal Care</td>
<td>Surgical Care</td>
<td>Women’s Care</td>
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Patient Food Services/Management

Food Services leadership (administrative dietitians, coordinators) manage the Patient Food Services rotations, which offer experiences in:

- Food procurement, food handling and related audits,
- Supply and union contract negotiations,
- Personnel management and scheduling,
- Budget planning, project management,
- CBORD systems to manage food service operations (i.e. purchasing/inventory, costing),
- CBORD systems diet office automation (i.e. diet/food compliance, menus, tray tickets),
- Legislated and mandatory staff training and practices (i.e., OHSA).

Food Services Administration rotations can either be at LHSC or at St. Joseph’s Health Centre (SJHC), where a combination of different food services systems are utilized. This rotation provides opportunities for the interns to engage in departmental project work requiring critical thinking and analysis to address current issues.

Health Promotion/Community Nutrition

The achievement of health promotion competencies is supported by community partners in Public Health Units/Community Health Centres and industry. We are not able to guarantee a health promotion/community placement in London and travel/accommodation may be required.

Research

Interns will develop research skills through formal and informal education opportunities and complete a research project during their program. The interns will select research projects led by LHSC dietitians; we have also supported development of evidence pathways for PEN®.

“The internship journey is very challenging time for dietetic, personal and professional growth but it is rewarding to see how much you can learn and grow in 10 months. The genuine support from your preceptors and positive encouragement from your intern class makes the learning process easier! I left LHSC with a passion for critical thinking and interest for continued learning and skill development”. Program Graduate

I didn’t realize how much clinical and hospital experience I would be getting and also how many opportunities I would have to interact with other team members. The preceptors were very supportive of learning and helping interns meet their personal objectives. I feel like I can always come back to my preceptors for advice or future networking. Program Graduate
# Internship Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Orientation</strong></th>
<th><strong>2 Weeks</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Services Administration/Management</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 Weeks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Patient Food Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Nutrition</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 Weeks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Diabetes</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Interns will complete four week rotations in 4 of the following areas: Cancer Care, Cardiac Care, Children’s Care, Clinical Neurosciences, Critical Care, Eating Disorders, Long Term Care, Medicine, Mental Health, Renal Care, Surgical Care and Women’s Care.</td>
<td><strong>16 Weeks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health Promotion/Community Nutrition:</strong></td>
<td><strong>4-6 Weeks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Public Health Units/Community Health Centres or Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong> (time is spread across program in 1 week units)</td>
<td><strong>4 Weeks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supervised Staff Relief</strong></td>
<td><strong>4 Weeks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Days</strong> (built into the program)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vacation</strong></td>
<td><strong>2 Weeks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>43-45 Weeks</strong></td>
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## Schedule

Interns will be on-site an average of 37.5 hours per week. There may be some weekend hours and schedule will vary according to the area in which the intern is placed. Interns will be expected to complete readings and some assignments outside placement hours. Regular attendance is expected, it may be necessary to make up any absences.

## Accommodation

Interns are responsible for securing their own accommodation. Rotations take place at different locations throughout the city. Learn more about London, Ontario at [http://www.london.ca/](http://www.london.ca/). The population health placements may require relocation to another community.

## Costs

- Application fee $25 (to be sent with application package)
- Tuition Fee (paid when the program begins) - $2500 (pending review)
- Parking - $60.00 per month plus $20 deposit. Photocopying - $75.00 (approx.);
- Professional Development Days - $75.00 (approx.)
- Student Membership in Dietitians of Canada (DC) is required.
- Health and Accident Insurance: Interns are required to carry DC Liability Insurance and Accident Insurance. Interns must provide proof of their respective Provincial Health Insurance coverage.

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"The preceptors at LHSC are very supportive and knowledgeable and with their guidance, I feel completely ready to serve as an entry-level RD. This program offers so much variety in terms of placements. I learned to care for patients in ways that enhances their life and empowers them. The last ten months has truly been a rewarding experience."  Program Graduate
Applying for Internship

The required forms and instructions are available from Dietitians of Canada. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all sections of the completed application package reach London Health Sciences Centre by February 1 of the year they wish to start the Internship, unless an alternate deadline is established by Dietitians of Canada. Please confirm with Dietitians of Canada prior to submitting your application.

A $25 application fee payable to LHSC Dietetic Internship must be included with your application.

Entrance Requirements

A bachelor’s degree is required with a Dietitians of Canada (DC) recognized curriculum. Course selection must be in accordance with DC requirements for the comprehensive program. This must be verified by an official transcript prior to admission to the programs. All course work must be completed in advance of the internship start date. No regional preference is shown, but fluency in English is required.

Selection Process 2016-17 class

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. Academic Performance: Strong academic standing with a minimum overall 75% average or higher during the last two complete years of university education.

2. Resume: Format in reverse chronological order, including university academic degree(s), relevant work experience, volunteer experience, involvement in community and extracurricular activities, pertinent training and awards. Clearly identify duration of experiences (i.e. total hours). Limit to 2 page maximum, 12 font with 1” margins.

3. Cover Letter: Discuss your reasons for interest in the LHSC dietetic internship program, highlight pertinent skills and experiences that will support you in achieving success in internship. Letters should be clear and concise, grammatically correct, and error-free. Limit to 1 page maximum, 12 font with 1” margins.

4. References: Provide work, volunteer, or professional references, preferably one reference from your University.

Applications are reviewed and a short-list of applicants will be invited to participate in a multi-mini interview process. Selected candidates will be ranked and the results will be submitted to Dietitians of Canada. Notification of acceptance is initiated by Dietitians of Canada.

Additional Information may be obtained by contacting:

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