

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Family Service Association Halifax provides a rich learning opportunity for practicum students. To ensure the student receives best possible experience, we expect each student to contract for a minimum of 15 hours on site per week. The majority of the hours will be direct service: individual, couple, and family counselling. We acknowledge that some programs have a group counselling component, however we cannot guarantee that therapeutic groups will take place during the allotted semester. You will also be given the opportunity to develop skills related to intake assessment and participate in outreach presentations for community groups. Indirect service activities support direct intervention and include writing case notes, reports, consultation with professionals and planning interventions.

Students receive two hours per week of supervision for their individual caseloads. Case conferences and clinical meetings are held twice per month, where students and staff present cases from their caseloads and discuss relevant issues. The range of topics include specific client issues, ethical dilemmas and therapeutic approaches.

Students' performance is evaluated on an ongoing basis through informal and formal procedures. Students are informed, on a regular basis, as to their progress using their learning goals as a guide. Students keep a written log of contact hours, activities and supervision.

## CORE ACTIVITIES

**Averaged across the term, typically for 15 hours per week, for a total of 225 hours:**

**Direct Service** **120 hours**  
Individual, couple, family and group counselling

**Indirect Service** **45 hours**  
Report writing, consultation planning administrative

**Supervision**  
Individual **30 hours**  
Clinical/case conferences **15 hours**

**Training/Professional Development** **15 hours**

**Note: The schedule will be modified according to individual student's practicum needs.**

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must be enrolled in a Master Program (or higher) specifically related to counselling. Applicants must have the approval from their program supervisor to apply. Applicants must submit the following:

1. A completed Practicum Application Form
2. A current curriculum vitae
3. Official graduate and undergraduate transcripts
4. Three letters of reference from individuals who have observed your clinical and/or academic performance.
5. A one-page statement of intent indicating how this practicum experience fits into your training and career goals.

### Application Deadlines:

October 15 for January 1 placement  
February 1 for April 1 placement  
June 15 for September 1 placement

Please forward all application materials and inquiries to:

Student Practicum Program Coordinator  
Family Service Association  
6080 Young St, Suite 401  
Halifax, NS  
B3K 5L2

Phone: 902-420-1980  
1-888-886-5552 (toll-free)  
Fax: 902-423-9830  
Email: [admin@fshalifax.com](mailto:admin@fshalifax.com)

All applications will be reviewed by the Practicum Selection Committee, and selected candidates will be invited for an interview.

Revised June 2016

# FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Of Halifax Regional Municipality



*Student  
Placement  
Guide*

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6080 Young St.,  
Suite 401  
Halifax, NS  
B3K 5L2

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## ABOUT FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Family Service Association is a non-profit, community based organization serving Halifax Regional Municipality. For over 25 years, FSA has provided access to professional counselling services to individuals, couples, and families who might not otherwise have access to such services. FSA also provides Employee Assistance Program services to a number of companies and organizations. In addition to the professional services offered by FSA, the agency often sponsors public-education events, and organizes other educational services.

Our professional services include counselling, therapy groups, mediation, courses in the workplace, and educational programs and events. We offer a number of programs and services to corporations and organizations to help improve employee morale, reduce stress, and increase productivity. These services include: EAPs, training programs, workplace wellness, mediation, and conflict management services.

Our counselling team is composed of experienced social workers and psychologists who bring to FSA a wide variety of knowledge and skills. The diversity of our counselling team's expertise allows us to provide services to a varied population.

The mission of Family Service Association is *to provide affordable, professional counselling and educational services to enable people to function more effectively—as individuals, couples, or families in their community or place of work.* True to our mission, Family Service Association is committed to: accessibility; responding to changing needs; cultural sensitivity; emphasis on personal strengths; prevention; advocacy; and organizational stability.

## WHY CHOOSE A PLACEMENT WITH FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION?

Deciding where to complete your practicum placement is an important decision. We look forward to meeting you and learning more about you and your goals. If you would like further information on our practicum program, please contact us.

### Philosophy

Family Service Association extends its educational mission through the training and supervision of graduate students in counsellor training programs. We believe that a broad understanding of therapeutic perspectives and methodologies provides an essential foundation for the development of a strong professional counsellor. We are committed to assisting graduate students to further develop and integrate their unique set of skills, interests, therapeutic perspectives and style. Another important aspect of our philosophy is to focus on supporting the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for program and service delivery that is responsive to the needs of our highly diverse client group.

### Goals

Family Service Association has a solid reputation in the community as a provider of professional, accessible counselling services. The goal of our practicum program is to provide a diverse and comprehensive training experience to prepare students to assume responsible, competent professional practice. By completing your practicum with our agency, you will have the opportunity to apply theoretical and technical knowledge to develop and refine your professional skills under the supervision of our skilled and experienced staff, all of whom are registered practitioners in Nova Scotia.

### National Affiliation

As part of a national organization, Family Service Canada, FSA is one of over 100 member agencies across Canada. This wide network of family service agencies provides our counselling staff with many additional resource and networking opportunities. As a nationally accredited organization, FSA meets quality assurance standards and adheres to appropriate ethical and professional guidelines.

## STAFF LISTING

Executive Director: Valerie Bobyk, B.A., M.B.A.

Clinical Manager: Lorna Griffin-Fillier, M.S.W., R.S.W.

Clinical Therapist: Jenna Adlakha, M.S.W., R.S.W.

Clinical Therapist: Amy MacKenzie, C.C.C.

Clinical Therapist: Yvonne Raczkowski, M.S.W., R.S.W.

Clinical Therapist: Nelleke Strik, M.Ed., C.C.C.

Intake/Triage: Angela Rogez, B.A.