

Paid Internship Program Information Session





Recording Reminder

Meeting Goals

- Share the GET PHIT paid internship opportunities for students
- Provide details about the application process
- Connect with previous interns



PHIT Grant Goal

Public Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT)
Workforce Development Program

4-Year Funding Opportunity

Goal: To prioritize the training of at least 4000 underrepresented minorities in the areas of public health informatics and technology to improve the nation's public health workforce.

PHIT Workforce Program Awardees

- Bowie State University, Bowie, MD
- California State University, Long Beach Research Foundation, Long Beach, CA
- Dominican College of Blauvelt, Inc., Orangeburg, NY
- Jackson State University, Jackson, MS
- Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA
- Regents of The University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- **The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, TX**
- University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Lowell, MA
- University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
- University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

GET PHIT Consortium Members

Huston-Tillotson
University

Prairie View A&M
University

Texas A&M
International University

Texas Tech University
Health Sciences Center

The University of Texas
Permian Basin

University of Texas at
Arlington

The University of Texas
at El Paso

The University of Texas
Health Science Center
at Houston School of
Public Health

The University of Texas
Health Science Center
at Houston School of
Biomedical Informatics

The University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley
UTRGV

Texas Southern
University

University of Texas at
Tyler



GET PHIT UTRGV Team

- PI: Tracia Forman, PhD, Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Co-PI: Suad Ghaddar, PhD, Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Co-PI: Kristina Vatcheva, PhD, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
- Graduate Research Assistant: Kaelan Wilson

Elements of the GET PHIT Grant

Curriculum Development

Bootcamps

Paid Internships

Internship Information

- 160-hour part-time **paid** internship in public health informatics within health departments, non-profits, or health systems
 - Stipends range: \$2,440 - \$3,000 based on education and skill
 - All stipends are paid for by the GET PHIT Consortium
- May be remote/in-person/hybrid depending on site
- Few remaining opportunities
 - Summer 2025: Early Jun – Mid Aug
 - Fall 2025: Early Sep – Early Dec
 - **Spring 2026: Early Feb – Early May**

Internship Eligibility

- Any enrolled UTRGV student who
 - Has a strong interest in public health informatics and data science
 - Has participated in a GET PHIT bootcamp, OR other eligible program of study/courses
- GPA of 3.0 or above preferred
- Students from underrepresented minorities are strongly encouraged to apply

Possible Internship Sites

Health Departments

City of Brownsville

City of El Paso

City of Houston

City of Laredo

City of Lubbock

Cameron County

Dallas County

Harris County

Tarrant County

Texas Department of State Health Services

Non-Profits & Health Systems

RTI, International

Harris Health System

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston Food Bank

Children at Risk, Center for Social Measurement and Evaluation

PCCI (Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation)

Student Skills/Possible Projects



Data cleaning



Database
development



Data analysis



Data
visualization



Data
programming



What Is It?

- A 160-hour part-time **paid internship** in public health informatics within health departments, non- profits, or health systems.
- Students will receive a stipend ranging from \$2,440 - \$3,000 based on education and skill.

Who Is Eligible?

Any enrolled UTRGV student who

- Has a strong interest in public health informatics & data science
- Has participated in a GET PHIT Bootcamp **OR** is part of an approved course or program in health professions, engineering, computer science, mathematical and statistical sciences, information systems, etc.

Students from underrepresented minorities are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to apply.

To apply, scan the QR code or visit the [GET PHIT Internship webpage](#)



PAID INTERNSHIPS

When?

Semester	Internship Dates*	Application Deadline
Spring 2026	Early Jan – Early May	October 1

*Specific start dates may vary and will depend on internship sites and processing.

How to Apply?

To apply visit the [GET PHIT Internship webpage](#).

More Information and Guidance on Application

Attend UTRGV Info Session	View Recording
When: Wednesday, September 9, 2 pm Where: Virtual via Zoom https://utrgv.zoom.us/j/82964230486	Visit the UTRGV GET PHIT website for previous info session recordings

Student Skills/Possible Projects

Internships may be remote/in-person/hybrid depending on site.



Data cleaning



Database development



Data collection



Data analysis



Data visualization



Data programming

Questions?

Send us an email: UTRGV.GETPHIT@utrgv.edu OR GETPHITInternships@uth.tmc.edu

Visit the [GET PHIT website \(https://www.uth.edu/get-phit/\)](#) or the [UTRGV GET PHIT website](#)

Spring 2026 Paid Internship

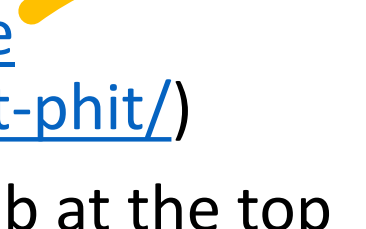
- Early January – Early May
- **Application Deadline = October 1**

Internship Application





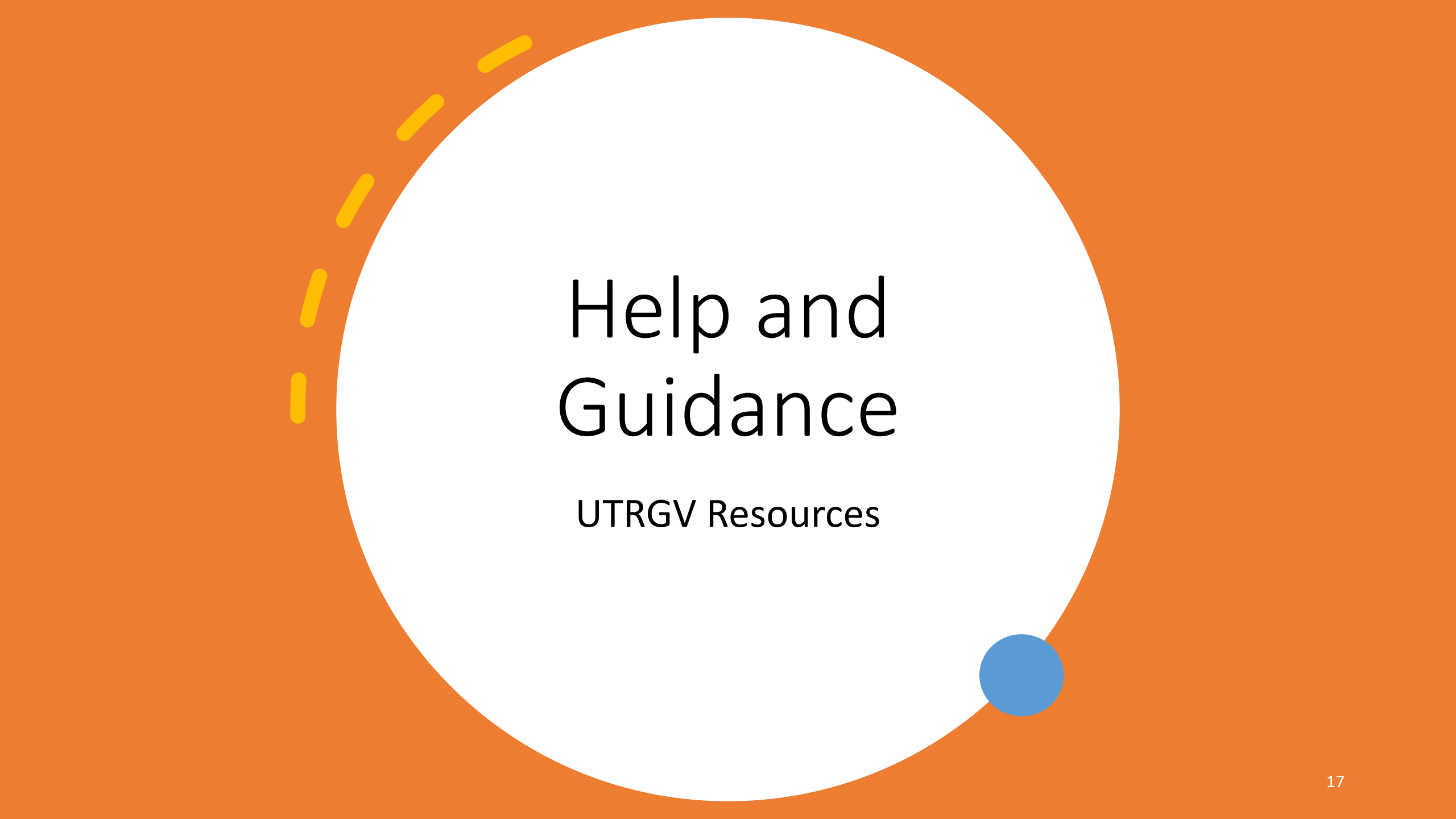
How to Apply?

- 
- Visit the GET PHIT [website](https://www.uth.edu/get-phit/) (<https://www.uth.edu/get-phit/>)
 - Click on the Internships tab at the top
 - Click on the Apply Now button
 - Fill the required information
 - Make sure to answer every question. Skipping questions does not allow you to move forward with the application



Additional Application Requirements

- **GET PHIT Bootcamp completion certificate**
 - Attending a Summer Bootcamp counts towards your eligibility.
 - Consider including that in your personal statement.
- **Transcript** (unofficial is acceptable)
- **Recommenders' information**
- **Resume**
 - Include the address/city you are currently physically located at so the GET PHIT team can consider the appropriate in-person sites for you
- **Personal statement** addressing your interest in public health informatics, data science, and how the GET PHIT internship will support your growth and development (500 words or less)



Help and Guidance

UTRGV Resources

Help and Guidance – Transcripts

- UTRGV students can request an **official transcript** using the [online ordering service](#). Students must be free of financial debt with the institution in order to have an official transcript released.
- **Unofficial transcripts** are available to current UTRGV students ONLY via [ASSIST](#).
 1. Log in to [my.utrgv.edu](#)
 2. Open ASSIST from the Applications section
 3. Select the Student Profile tab
 4. Select Academic Record
 5. Select the transcript level, and transcript type
- Note that the GET PHIT internship application accepts official and unofficial transcripts.
- Internship information can also be found on the [UTRGV GET PHIT website](#), including the recording of this and past information sessions.

Help and Guidance - Resume

The UTRGV Career Center and their Career Advising/Education Team provide outstanding support in career development including CV/resume building, professional correspondence, networking, interviewing, and more.

To get help preparing your resume, you can

- Schedule an appointment with Center advisors (via [Handshake](#)), or
- Visit during the Center's [Drop-In Hours](#)

Help and Guidance - Recommender

- All you need to do is to provide the name, role, and contact information for two recommenders who can attest to your skills, leadership, and character.
 - Make sure to contact the recommenders ahead of time seeking their willingness to serve as your recommender and permission to share their email.
- Recommenders can be professors, advisors, previous or current supervisors, and/or mentor.
- The GET PHIT Program will send the recommender a survey to complete.

Help and Guidance – Personal Statement

- In your personal statement, address your interest in public health informatics, data science, and/or other relevant topics, and how the GET PHIT internship program will support your growth and development.
 - 500 words or less
- We highly recommend that you utilize the services of [UTRGV's Writing Center](#) to review your personal statement.
- The center provides
 - [In-person consultations](#)
 - [Zoom writing consultations](#)
 - Review of any document you send within 24-48 hours

Note on AI Use

- As we have been reviewing applications, we noticed obvious AI use by some applicants
 - Impressive use of all the field's sophisticated terminology
 - Several similar essays, almost word for word
 - Essays without a soul
- Using AI-generated essays in response to the prompt is SUPER obvious! It is also UNETHICAL, when undisclosed
- Nothing beats an authentic expression that communicates your unique voice

Payment

To receive payment

- Complete paperwork required by UTHealth Houston before the beginning of the internship
 - If you are accepted, be on the lookout for email communication from UTHealth
 - Attend to requests **promptly**
- Complete internship

- Eligibility requirements
 - Payments cannot be made to international students
- Accepted students who are eligible for the “paid” internship will receive an email to fill out a form for additional information that will be submitted to UTHealth Human Resources (HR)
- UTHealth Human Resources (HR) will send a link for background check
- Background check can take up to two weeks, so please respond promptly
- Students who do not complete the required information will NOT receive payment
- Payment is broken up into smaller payments over the course of the internship, usually based on UTHealth Houston pay cycles

Note for International Students

- Due to processing requirements, the GET PHIT team cannot process applications (paid or unpaid) for international students.

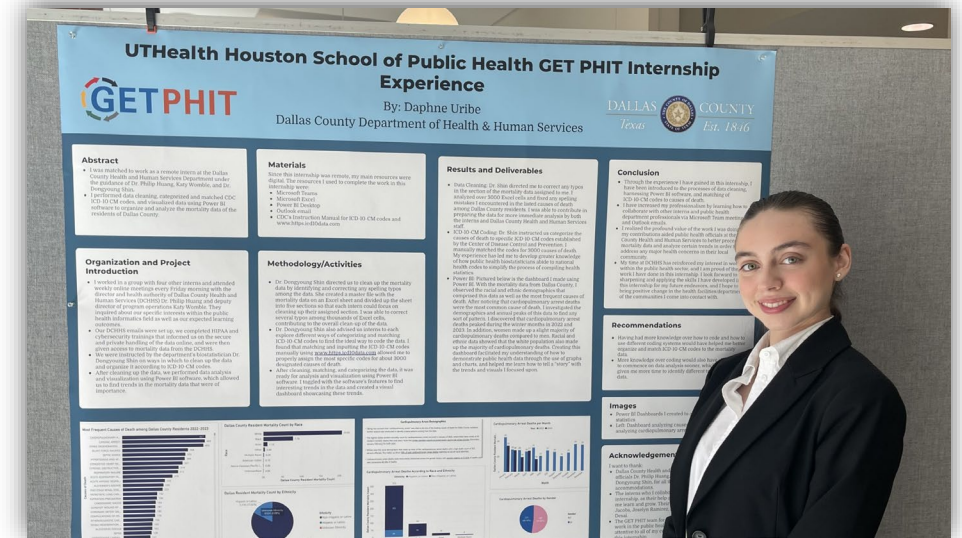
Start Today!

- It will allow you enough time to seek/receive feedback on your reflection essays elaborating on your interest in participation.
- It will allow you time to identify questions and reach out.

Stronger Application!

Internship Achievements

- To date, over **120 UTRGV students** have completed paid internships as part of the GET PHIT initiative.
- Some have presented at the 2023 (Houston) and 2024 (Arlington) GET PHIT Summits.
- Five have been accepted to present this Thursday at the 2025 GET PHIT Summit in Laredo.



Questions?

Connect with our UTRGV GET PHIT Team

UTRGV GET PHIT Team

- Email: UTRGV.GETPHIT@utrgv.edu
- [UTRGV GET PHIT internships webpage](#): We will post a copy of these slides and a recording

UTHealth Houston GET PHIT Internships Team

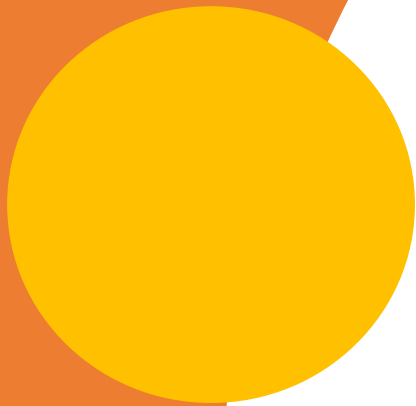
- Email:
 - getphitinternships@uth.tmc.edu
- Internships [webpage](#)



Tracia Forman, PhD



Suad Ghaddar, PhD



Past Interns