



FAQs: Extramural Elective Clerkship in International Health

What is this elective? “Extramural Elective Clerkship in International Health” (Senior Medicine # 882-937), formerly referred to as “International Health Elective”, is a 1-8 week elective clerkship at a clinical site outside the US. The clerkship consists of three required components: pre-departure preparatory modules and orientation to principles of global health; field experience in a different cultural and health system setting; and assignments or reports submitted upon return from the field. The course faculty includes Dr. James Conway, Associate Director for Health Sciences, Global Health Institute, along with designated preceptors at the clerkship sites and other UW-Madison faculty advisors when appropriate. Students are allowed up to 8 degree credits (8 weeks) in third and fourth year for international clerkship electives. These credits do not count toward the 18 direct patient care credits within the UW clinical campus required during fourth year.

Who is eligible? Third and fourth year medical students who are in good academic standing and have completed clerkships in Primary Care, Medicine, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN are eligible. Individual sites may have additional requirements for participation.

How do I identify elective sites? Eligible sites may be at medical schools, government clinics and hospitals, and private or non-governmental organization health facilities. Clinical work must be supervised by a licensed physician. Sites in countries with State Department travel warnings in effect are generally not approved for credit. A request for an exemption from this policy can be made in writing by the student at least **12 weeks** prior to departure <http://ghi.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/WarningListForm10-08-12.pdf>. International clerkship electives can be challenging. Students should carefully consider their goals, expectations, language abilities, living conditions, and site safety when selecting an international experience. The following is a list of resources to help you find a site.

- A number of core GHI sites <http://ghi.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/oreSiteIHE11-10-copy.pdf> primarily in developing countries, have been identified. These are sites where UW-Madison students have served in the past, or where the site is known to provide a high quality experience.
- The field opportunity page, <http://ghi.wisc.edu/volunteer-field-opportunities/> on the GHI web site, also provides resources for finding a field opportunity.
- You are welcome to browse through the “Country Profile” file cabinet in the GHI office, 4270B HSLC. This contains past students’ site evaluations and other materials.
- In addition, students may use their own contacts and other resources to arrange for an elective, but they must work with GHI staff to have sites approved.

Can I get degree credit for language study (such as medical Spanish)? No. However, many programs offer combined language training and clinical work. You can get credit for the clinical portion of the program. For a typical four week program, two credits can be earned. The approval process is the same as for other electives.

What is the recommended timeline for setting up my international clerkship elective? We recommend that you begin planning one year in advance and tentatively reserve time in your fourth year schedule for your elective. Most students find it easiest to take the elective during second semester of fourth year. If you choose to be abroad during the match in March, consult Christopher Stillwell in Student Services in advance to make plans in case you do not match.

You should begin to explore possible sites by the spring of year 3 with the goal of identifying a site and supervisor, and coming to agreement on what you will do during your elective in year four. Housing may or may not be provided by the site. Students are responsible for confirming housing and elective fees, applying for passports and visas, making travel arrangements, and getting required immunizations prior to their elective. Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) medical and evacuation insurance is required by the UW-System for all international electives and can be purchased at the Global Health Institute (GHI) office, 4270B HSLC.

What should be submitted for approval? Students must submit to the GHI office:

1. The **International Clerkship packet**, found at <http://ghi.wisc.edu/international-clerkship/>.
2. This includes a **letter of confirmation from their site supervisor** which confirms the dates of their elective and describes their duties.

How do I register for the Extramural Elective Clerkship in International Health? Once you have submitted your International Clerkship packet and letter of confirmation from your site, you may register for the clerkship on OASIS. When you have received approval from Dr. Conway, Betsy Teigland, GHI Programs Coordinator, will approve your registration on OASIS.

How do I fund my experience? Funding support for international experiences is very limited. Go to the GHI website <http://ghi.wisc.edu/education-funding-resources/> for a list of possible grant sources. If eligible, students are allowed to borrow additional loan money to cover airfare, housing and related expenses for their international electives. A budget form for this purpose is available in the International Clerkship Packet, or from the GHI office.

What are the requirements for the Extramural Elective Clerkship in International Health? In addition to complying with all travel and policy guidelines for international electives and submitting all paper work in the International Clerkship packet, students have these additional requirements:

- Pre-trip completion of **three** self study modules designed to prepare students for international work as well as **one** post-trip module (all to be submitted to *Learn@UW* dropbox)
- Summary of activities
- Field journal
- Submission of the elective evaluation from your site supervisor to the GHI (we recommend that you bring the form with you and hand carry it back)
- Two student evaluations of the site; one required by Student Services to be entered by the student on OASIS, and another to be submitted to *Learn@UW* dropbox. This last requirement is very helpful to future students.

Who do I contact for assistance with the Extramural Elective Clerkship in International Health? The Global Health Institute staff is available to help you set up your international clerkship. Dr. James Conway, GHI Associate Director for Health Sciences, 4276 HSLC, jhconway@wisc.edu, can advise you about international health field sites. Betsy Teigland, 4270B HSLC, teigland@wisc.edu, can assist you with administrative requirements and policies.