1. Introduction

Students (and their parents) often ask variations of the question: "What kinds of jobs are there for people who study global health and how do I get one?"

Global health involves people from many, many different fields using their expertise to improve human well-being. As a result, you can have almost any job title and be working in global health. Besides the medical specialists you might think of first (doctor, veterinarian, dentist, physician assistant, nurse, etc.), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Top Jobs" page lists both positions with obvious global health connections (epidemiologist, microbiologist, occupational health specialist) as well as many support positions (audiovisual production specialists, writers, engineers, among many others). You could also address global health by being a teacher, social worker, engineer, farmer, agronomist, or 1,000 other things. Whatever your major and interests are, Certificate in Global Health staff can talk with you about how to connect them to global health. Sections two, three, and four of this document provide a little more context on global health careers and global health job searching.

It's possible but quite hard to find a paid, permanent, entry-level job in global or public health without either significant work experience or an advanced degree (MS, MSPH, MPH, MD, or other). Section 7 of this document discusses where you could look for those jobs.

A much more likely option for recent global health grads is securing a short-term (3 month to 2 year) internship or other training opportunity, either paid or unpaid. Students who use opportunities like this (potentially several of them back-to-back) to accumulate at least one or two years of work experience are much better positioned to apply either to permanent jobs or graduate schools. Sections 5 and 6 of this document provide more information on short-term opportunities.

Global health advising staff can help you think about careers and work opportunities in global health, but if you need help with a resume, cover letter, or figuring out what you want to do with
non-global-health-related parts of your life, we encourage you to talk with career services staff in your home school or college.

2. Graduate school now vs. later

Students nearing graduation often ask certificate staff if they should try to go to graduate or professional school right away or if they should work for a bit first. Our standard reaction is “Work first!” Why? Several reasons:

A. You’ll be a better candidate – Medical schools across the country (including UW’s) are increasingly choosing applicants who have been out of school for at least one or two years (or more – nothing prevents you from starting medical school as late as your early thirties). That’s because those applicants are less obsessed with grades in medical school, drop out at lower rates, are better communicators, and generally have more of the competencies they will need to work with patients as part of increasingly complex healthcare teams. The same is true of other kinds of health programs.

B. Graduate school carries many costs; make sure you want to do it at all and explore particular programs carefully – Most graduate programs take at least two or three years of focused work, and medical school plus residency is at least a 6-8 year commitment. Tuition alone for four years of medical school is now at least $100,000 and other forms of graduate study are proportionately expensive. If working for a year or two convinces you that you either do or don’t want to pursue a particular graduate or professional degree and a related career, it was probably a good use of your time. The Certificate in Global Health is still a pretty new program (we became official in 2011), but we have already had quite a few graduates tell us that working for as little as a single summer after college changed their graduate/professional school plans.

C. Maybe what you always thought you would be is not what you will be -- Many of you have been conditioned from an early age to think you will (or must) become doctors, or nurses, or whatever. Often this is because there isn’t enough time in grades K-12 to talk about helping, health-related careers that are not clinical in nature, or because your teachers didn’t know about those careers. You may indeed become a clinical professional, and that’s great (necessary for some important global health work!), but taking time to explore other career options can be worth it.

D. You are young, you have been a student for as long as you can remember, and the world is very big – You are, you have, and it is. We encourage you to try out looking at the world for a few years through a lens other than that of “student.” Especially if you think you might like to try living and working abroad, it may never be as easy to do that in terms of family and other commitments as it is now.

We’ve encouraged you to work for a bit, but it’s also important how you think about the time you spend not being in school. Students interested in graduate school often talk about taking a “gap year” after college. You may not think of it this way, but the word “gap” can make it sound either like a vacation (some of which is fine, of course) or as though you are looking for some not-too-serious thing to use to fill a gap while waiting to get to the really important thing (graduate school). We encourage you not to think of the time that way. Ideally, it’s not time off, but time “on,” time spent exploring one or more areas in which you would potentially like to
work for the long term, and where even a little work experience can help you decide whether or not a related graduate program is something to consider. We also encourage you not to think of the post-college, pre-graduate time as one year – one year may not be enough time to try multiple areas of work in global health (or even one, really), decide that you either do or don’t want to pursue them further, and make informed decisions to graduate or professional programs on the basis of what you learned.

Finally, we recognize that it is easy to feel as though there’s urgency in applying to graduate school. Students tell us things like “I’ll forget what I need to know to do well on the MCAT/GRE/etc.!” and “I’ll forget how to study!” and “I won’t want to go back to school!” and “I need to get another degree in order to make a difference!” and “Everyone in my family expects me to go to graduate school!” In our experience, though, the schools will still be there a few years from now, you will be an even better candidate for having worked a while first, and parental/familial expectations can be dealt with by explaining that you are not taking time off, but taking time to choose a field of graduate study in a way that will make you happier in the long run. Exploring for a bit may save you and them money, too, if you avoid starting a degree you won’t finish or use.

3. Types of organizations you might work with

Global health work opportunities exist with:

1) governmental agencies -- governments of each separate country in the world, with responsibility usually for the health of people within their own countries' boundaries

2) international or intergovernmental agencies -- groups like the United Nations and its many subagencies that combine the efforts of many countries to address health issues internationally

3) nonprofit or nongovernmental groups -- NGOs, groups ranging in size from tiny to very large and addressing one or more health issues in one or more countries

4) schools of public health -- schools like the UW School of Medicine and Public Health that both teach future global health professionals and conduct work to try to improve the state of global/public health in the US and abroad (technically, these are also NGOs, but their strong educational mission sets them apart from others)

5) corporations -- unlike the other groups just listed, corporations try to make a profit, but they do in many cases make important contributions to global health by providing products or services

In some countries and for some global health topics, the lines between these different categories of potential employers are blurry, especially because non-profit groups and corporations contract with governmental and intergovernmental agencies to provide services that the governmental agencies do not have the personnel or expertise to deliver. Whenever you look at a job or internship listing with any type of organization, read carefully -- do they require that you have a graduate degree or are in graduate school? How many years of experience do they want you to
have, and what technical and language skills? Is the position paid or unpaid? How long is it? Would I be working in person with individual people or small groups of people, or would I be working with data or helping to manage a program such that I might rarely or never meet the population I was working with? Is the position based abroad all or some of the time, and if so, how comfortable am I with that? Keep in mind that you can have a fulfilling career addressing global health issues right here in the US, either working with people here or supporting an organization that works mostly abroad.

4. Ways to learn more about job searching in public/global health

A good place to start getting oriented for your job search is the Powerpoint presentation from a spring 2013 talk given by Lori DiPrete Brown, Associate Director of UW’s Global Health Institute and a co-founder of the Certificate in Global Health. Lori’s talk provides a broad overview of where global health jobs are, gives a few specifics on links to job sites (those are also provided below), and gives tips for formatting your resume and approaching potential employers.

All three of the core classes for the Certificate in Global Health also involve either guest speakers (who serve as examples of careers in public health that you might want to pursue) and/or explicit discussion of how to find a job in global or public health.

5. Paid, short-term, entry-level jobs

Very short opportunities (three months or less)

The shortest paid jobs you might explore (perhaps for right after graduation or within a year or two of it) are summer or semester-long internships. Most of the internships mentioned in our “Work in global health during college” page are off limits to folks who have graduated, but a few are not.

Our listing of these opportunities does not mean we endorse them, but these are all professionally run programs that will provide you with experience (as opposed to groups out there that will promise you something great but don’t even have a physical office or real staff).

The ones we know of that you can apply to if you have a BA or BS but have not yet started (or, in some cases, been accepted to) a graduate program are as follows:

A. Community Health Internship Program (CHIP) -- http://www.ahec.wisc.edu/chip -- Run by the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC) System and based in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, CHIP runs rigorous, well-regarded, and competitive internships in public health (they’re also paid!). Look carefully at their deadlines (typically in Feb. of any given year for the following summer) before applying. Talk to a certificate advisor for application tips. Internships are typically 8 weeks long and start in very late May.

B. Wisconsin Express -- http://www.ahec.wisc.edu/wisconsin-express-- Like CHIP, above, Wisconsin Express is run by AHEC. Unlike AHEC's CHIP program, in which interns
spend most of their summer working with an AHEC branch, Wisconsin Express is a one-week program in which students in health professions are immersed in one of Wisconsin’s diverse communities learning about health care resources and challenges faced by particular or urban or rural populations. Because of its short duration and emphasis on observation rather than work, it really isn’t an internship, but it’s more structured than just volunteering. It’s also not paid, but it is subsidized such that it only costs about $200.

C. The Columbia Summer Public Health Scholars Program -- http://www.oda-ps.cumc.columbia.edu/programs/about_sphsp.html -- "The program includes Public Health course work at Columbia University; hands-on field experience and immersion in a diverse, economically disadvantaged urban environment; seminars and lectures with public health leaders, and mentoring by faculty members, ensuring students exposure to the breadth and importance of public health as a career option."

D. University of Michigan's Future Public Health Leaders (FPHLP) Program -- http://sitemaker.umich.edu/um-fphlp/home -- "The FPHLP is a 10-week summer program at the University of Michigan School of Public Health (UM-SPH) whose goal is to increase the diversity of the public health workforce. Participants receive leadership training, orientation to the public health disciplines, and real world work experience. The program is designed to foster knowledge of, excitement about, and commitment to the elimination of health inequalities."

E. Project IMHOTEP Summer Research Internship Program – http://www.morehouse.edu/centers/phsi/grants-imhotep.html -- An 11-week training program for juniors, seniors, and recent graduates interested in minority health, biostatistics, epidemiology, occupational safety and health, or the health sciences. Run by Morehouse College.

F. Internships in agriculture – If you would like to work on a farm, in school gardens, or in other settings related to food production and processing, you should check out Educational and Training Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture (2012 edition) and the related Sustainable Farming Internships and Apprenticeships directory. Many of the internships listed are just summer-long, though some last a full year or more.

Opportunities longer than three months

If you are looking for paid experiences longer than three months we encourage you to consider the Peace Corps and various Peace Corps-like opportunities both domestic and foreign. These are sometimes collectively called “service corps” (where a “corps” is a group of people engaged in the same activity).

Brief summaries of some of the best known of these are given below. We have included quick notes about eligibility, but for reasons of space, we have left off details that most organizations provide (for example, what if any undergraduate majors they most often take) – you will want to look up those details yourself.

Our listing of these opportunities does not mean we endorse them – some of these organizations have both boosters (people who think that the organization does a great job) and critics (people who think for one reason or another that the organization doesn’t serve the communities in which
it works). For those kinds of opinions we encourage you to talk to a certificate advisor and/or do some web searching on your own. Having said that, these are all professionally run organizations that will provide you with experience (as opposed to groups out there that will promise you something great but don’t even have a physical office or real staff).

If/when you start graduate school in a public health-related field, more different opportunities become available to you.

A. Peace Corps (also see the UW Peace Corps page)

**Purpose:** The Peace Corps mission statement reads “To promote world peace and friendship by fulfilling three goals: 1) To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women, 2) To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, and 3) To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.”

**Job description:** Peace Corps volunteers (very often called PCVs) work in very diverse positions, ranging from support of agriculture and forestry efforts to classroom teaching, business development, and community health promotion. Your time in the Peace Corps starts with several months of training, after which you will have occasional opportunities to participate in short training events.

**About the organization:** Peace Corps is a branch of the US government. It was founded in 1961.

**Duration:** Two years, typically, though some people extend for a third year.

**Locations:** All international (about 60 countries around the world). As of 2014, you can indicate your preference for a particular country, though you may or may not end up getting posted there (if you pass the first stages of the application process, they will offer you a particular job in a particular place, which you can either accept or decline).

**Pay and benefits:** Pay varies by country, but you get enough to live on, plus good health coverage, sick leave and vacation, and other benefits. You get a chunk of money (about $7,500 in 2014) on completion to help you get settled. Some college loans can be deferred or forgiven.

**Eligibility:** Must be at least 18 and a U.S. citizen to apply. If you speak a desired language (Spanish and French are often in demand) or have other concrete skills that can increase your chances of getting a position. In many recent years, UW has sent more volunteers to the Peace Corps than any other school in the US. That doesn’t guarantee that you will get in, but we seem to be doing something right!

**Application details:** You can apply at any time but should apply 9-12 months in advance of your desired date of departure (if you would like to start in early summer after a May graduation, for example, you should apply by September of the previous year). The application process is online through the Peace Corps web site. If you have questions about applying (or Peace Corps service in general), the UW Peace Corps recruiter is usually quite available to talk (see the UW Peace Corps page).

**Useful factoids:** If you are interested in graduate school, you may want to explore Master's International, a program in which you complete a master’s degree in one of a variety of fields in combination with your two years in the Peace Corps.
B. **AmeriCorps**

**Purpose/about the organization/job description:** AmeriCorps is run by the US government. It is a national community service program that places volunteers in hundreds of different jobs with nonprofit and government agencies across the US. It was founded in 1992, though it incorporated several programs that were much older. AmeriCorps can be a bit confusing to approach from the outside – it has three main parts or branches, each of which in turn has many subunits. There’s some overlap in how the three branches work and what they do. The three main branches are:

1) **AmeriCorps State and National** – This is a set of state-level and nationwide programs providing services of a particular type. This branch includes many subunits with their own names and their own web sites, including Food Corps and Community Health Corps (CHC), which are perhaps the most likely places for global health-oriented students to look for positions. Food Corps volunteers do nutrition education, help manage school and community gardens, and train teachers and community members in related skills. CHC volunteers often end up as community health workers engaged in:
   - Helping people navigate the healthcare system
   - Helping people in need establish a “medical home” & improve utilization of health service
   - Individual & group health promotion/disease prevention education
   - Follow-up, case management, & support on treatment plans
   - Enrollment in public health insurance
   - Assessing other patient needs (financial assistance, housing, legal, etc.)

2) **National Civilian Conservation Corps, or AmeriCorps NCCC**, which trains volunteers to work in teams on particular projects, often (but not always) infrastructure-related.

3) **Volunteers in Service to America, or AmeriCorps VISTA**. VISTA members generally do not provide direct services, such as tutoring children or building homes. Instead, they focus their efforts on building the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic develop, and otherwise assist low-income communities. VISTAs develop programs to meet a need, write grants, and recruit and train volunteers. Some example VISTA tasks:
   - Create an adult literacy awareness campaign and recruit volunteer tutors.
   - Set up transitional housing dedicated to helping the homeless turn their lives around.
   - Expand programs to help low-income families obtain affordable health insurance.
   - Recruit mentors for children of incarcerated parents.
   - Organize shelter and job opportunities for victims of disasters.

**Job description:** Highly varied, see above for some examples.

**Duration:** Highly varied – there are some summer-long opportunities (especially in something called the VISTA Summer Associate program), but most people work either 10-12 months full time or up to two years part time. Some certificate alums have completed two back-to-back one-year positions with different organizations.
Locations: Highly varied, but all domestic. Some are very rural, some in inner-city areas. The more willing you are to relocate geographically, the larger the range of jobs available to you.

Pay and benefits: Full-time volunteers earn a stipend totaling about $12,000 for a year. At the end of the year, you are eligible for an education award of $5,500 that can be used for up to seven years to pay for education or pay back student loans. You also have health insurance, personal and sick leave, and some other benefits.

Eligibility: You must be a US citizen or permanent resident. You must be under 24 to join AmeriCorps NCCC, but otherwise you can be any age over 18 to join AmeriCorps. Most AmeriCorps VISTA projects and many positions with Community Health Corps and other state and national corps units give preference to people with a college degree or several years of work experience.

Application details: Applying to Americorps can be a little confusing. While you can search for open positions with any of the three branches at any time, you can’t actually apply for a particular job until you have registered (they also use the term “create a profile”) with Americorps in general. Once you are registered, you can apply for up to 10 Americorps positions. Each position description will tell you which of the three branches described above you would be working with.

Useful factoids: If you are in the Peace Corps, you are an employee of (and are paid by, managed by, and taken care of) by the Peace Corps, and by extension the US government. In Americorps, you are paid by Americorps (the US government), but in most cases you are managed by the staff of the nonprofit or governmental agency you are posted with. For better and for worse, this means that AmeriCorps volunteers seem to end up having less uniform experiences than Peace Corps volunteers. If the organization you are with is well-managed, with focused, dedicated employees, you have a great experience. If not, then maybe not.

C. Global Health Corps

Purpose: Their web site says “Our mission is to mobilize a global community of emerging leaders to build the movement for health equity. We are building a community of changemakers who share a common belief: health is a human right. Global Health Corps pairs intelligent and passionate fellows with organizations that require new thinking and innovative solutions. We provide these young leaders with the tools to remain connected after their fellowship year finishes, deepening their ability to enact change through heightened skills and strong partnerships.”

Job description: Volunteers (GHC calls them “fellows”) receive some shared training and then are placed with a variety of partner “placement organizations.” Whatever organization you are in will have a GHC-sponsored “national fellow” who is your partner and who helps you get to know the organization and the population it serves. With help from your partner fellow and their organization and potentially an outside training partner, you get put to work doing whatever the partner organization does.

Duration: One year, though they place great emphasis on having fellows maintain long-term relationships to the partner organizations they serve with. All fellows start in mid-June and work through mid-August of the following year. That time commitment includes a two week initial training.
About the organization: A nonprofit organization (that is, NOT part of the US government, unlike Peace Corps and AmeriCorps). It was founded in 2008 and is considerably smaller than the two groups just mentioned. To some extent it was founded as a deliberate alternative to the Peace Corps, one that more closely pairs volunteers with existing organizations in the host communities. It’s also exclusively health focused (some Peace Corps volunteers do community health work, but many more work on education and development projects that are only indirectly health-related).

Pay and benefits: GHC fellows get living stipends, housing, health insurance, work expenses, and travel costs. All fellows get $1500 completion awards upon finishing service.

Locations: As of 2014, GHC volunteers work in Burundi, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, as well as in the US itself.

Eligibility: Non US citizens can apply to be international fellows in US-based positions, but as of 2014 only US citizens can apply to be GHC fellows outside the US. You must be a college graduate to apply.

Application details: There is a two-part application process. The first part opens in November, the second in December. Both parts must be completed by January. All application materials available on the GHC web site.

Useful factoids: As far as we know, as of 2014, the certificate has not yet had an alum accepted to GHC. It’s much smaller and more selective than Peace Corps, but we feel that many of our graduates have both the skills and the drive to make great GHC fellows. You could be the first!

D. Teach for America

Purpose: Teach for America (TFA) seeks to ensure that children growing up in poverty get an excellent education. They do this by training and placing teachers in schools in both rural and urban areas that serve low-income and often minority populations.

Job description: To some extent, working with TFA looks like being a public school teacher anywhere, though your day will be very different if you teach elementary school than if you teach middle or high school. Given the goals of TFA, you almost certainly will end up working with students who face a variety of obstacles to school success (poverty, language barriers, violent or unstable home or community environments, etc.). This can make the normally difficult job of teaching even more difficult, though possibly also more rewarding. Because most TFA corps members have not gone through typical teacher training (a teaching-focused bachelor’s and/or master’s degree), TFA provides various forms of training and support before and during your teaching time to help you gain both the skills you need and the licenses and certifications required to be “official” in the state and school district where you will work.

Duration: Two years.

About the organization: TFA is a nonprofit organization (that is, NOT part of the US government, unlike Peace Corps and AmeriCorps), but note that you will work for (and be bound to the rules of) a particular school district, in addition to being overseen by TFA. Founded in 1989.

Locations: TFA places corps members all over the US, but some areas have a greater need than others at different times. As of summer 2014, TFA was placing many
volunteers in eastern North Carolina, the Las Vegas Valley, Memphis, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.

**Pay and benefits:** You are an employee of the district where you are placed, rather than TFA. As a result, the salary and benefits you get are those of other starting teachers in the district where you are placed. Salaries vary widely based on the cost of living in different placement locations (in 2014, TFA gives a range of $24,000 to $51,000). Benefits also vary, but in most cases you get health insurance, retirement benefits, and other benefits.

**Eligibility:** Must have a bachelor’s degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. You must be a US citizen or permanent resident.

**Application details:** TFA has multiple deadlines. Check their web site for details and to complete the online application or learn when it will be available.

**Useful factoids:** Teach for America is not very directly public health (if admitted, you’re much more likely to end up teaching second grade or high school chemistry than health), but much public health work involves education and outreach, so getting training and experienced as an educator would be helpful in almost any public health career. More generally, the education you provide as a Teach for America volunteer will hopefully enhance the well-being of your students and their community (in general, level of education correlates strongly with well-being!).

E. **Green Corps**

**Purpose:** According to the Green Corps (GC) web site, “The mission of Green Corps is to train organizers, provide field support for today’s critical environmental campaigns, and graduate activists who possess the skills, temperament, and commitment to fight and win tomorrow’s environmental battles.” They also say that GC was founded to serve “As a graduate school for environmental organizers - with a difference. This program not only gave participants a solid academic grounding in their field of choice; it provided concrete field experience, established relationships between the participants and the major environmental organizations they hoped to serve in, and even paid participants to enable them to engage full-time in their chosen work.”

**Job description:** Being in Green Corps is somewhere between being in graduate school and being in a job. “Green Corps' one-year, full-time, paid Field School for Environmental Organizing includes intensive classroom training, hands-on field experience running urgent environmental campaigns, and career placement in positions with leading environmental groups.” In the course of a year, each participant works on “three to five different campaigns such as retiring dirty coal-fired power plants, protecting our drinking water, improving our food system and building the campus fossil fuel divestment movement. Organizers will learn important skills such as recruiting volunteers, developing strategic campaigns and building strong coalitions.”

**Duration:** One year. There is a three-week introductory classroom training each August and four one-week trainings are scattered through the following year.

**About the organization:** A nonprofit organization (that is, NOT part of the US government, unlike Peace Corps and AmeriCorps). Founded in 1992 as a way to college grads without work experience enter the field of environmental organizing.
Locations: Highly varied. Green Corps members travel to different communities to work with three to five different organizations.

Pay and benefits: Salary of $24,000. Optional group health care coverage, paid sick days and holidays, two weeks paid vacation, and a student loan repayment program for qualifying staff.

Eligibility: College degree not required, but most applicants have one. Must be a US citizen, permanent resident, or have a visa that allows you to work for the year you would be with Green Corps.

Application details: See the Green Corps web site for details. Application opens each fall.

Useful factoids: Green Corps is quite selective (they took 35 of 1,500 applicants in a recent round), but their graduates have gone on to lead many important organizations. If you want to advocate for the environment, Green Corps should be something you try to do.

F. The CDC’s Public Health Associate Program, or PHAP

Purpose: PHAP seeks to train the next generation of public health professionals.

Job description: Each PHAP associate is assigned to a state, tribal, local, or territorial public health agency and works on prevention-oriented programs alongside other more senior professionals. A PHAP associate typically completes two one-year job assignments with the same organization, each focused on a different area of public health (focus areas include injury prevention, STIs and other communicable diseases, maternal and child health, and global migration). The CDC intends that after completing the program, PHAP graduates will be qualified to apply for entry level jobs with governmental and nongovernmental public health agencies.

Duration: Two years.

Pay and benefits: Salary (varies by location, but something near $30,000 a year), paid sick and vacation leave, health insurance, and other benefits.

About the organization: PHAP is run by the Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Locations: All domestic, but otherwise highly varied, with associates in most states and territories. Some postings very rural, some urban.

Eligibility: Must be a US citizen or permanent resident. Must have a bachelor’s or master’s degree by July 1 of the year you apply.

Application details: The application window for PHAP is narrow. As of summer 2014, the application time window for 2015 is tentatively scheduled for mid January 2015 to late February 2015, but check the PHAP web site for final dates and the details of the application.

Useful factoids: PHAP is highly competitive but would be a superb introduction to the structure and function of government-run public health efforts in the US. As of 2014, the certificate has had one alum accepted to PHAP.

G. Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Advanced Laboratory Training Fellowship
Purpose: “The Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Laboratory Fellowship Program, sponsored by APHL and CDC, trains and prepares scientists for careers in public health laboratories and supports public health initiatives related to infectious disease research.”

Job description: Training in research methods, with “Emphasis on the practical application of technologies, methodologies and practices related to emerging infectious diseases.” Examples of projects include research in molecular genetics, pathogenesis, epidemiology and cell biology. Fellows may be trained in specific laboratory techniques such as real-time PCR, DNA sequencing and mass spectrometry. Fellows may receive specialized training and experience with a specific pathogen, or generalized training in influenza or STD surveillance, newborn screening or chemical and biological warfare agents. Other work may include diagnostic virology, bioanalytical chemistry, foodborne disease research including Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE), clinical and environmentaliagnostics and epidemiologic studies of disease outbreaks.

Duration: One year.

Pay and benefits: About $32,000 in 2014 plus medical insurance and travel costs.

About the organization: Sponsored by both the Association of Public Health Laboratories (a nonprofit group) and the Centers for Disease Control (a government agency).

Locations: Various host organizations around the US.

Eligibility: US citizens who have earned a bachelor’s degree by the time the programs starts (approx September of any given year).

Application details: Applications due in February, check web site for exact date and application process.

Useful factoids: One of the best (only!) research-focused options for recent grads.

H. Smaller region-focused Peace-Corps-like groups – For some countries and regions there are service groups that operate somewhat like the Peace Corps or Global Health Corps but work in just a single country, a group of adjacent countries, and/or on a single issue (HIV, breastfeeding, etc.). One example of a smaller region-focused NGO with Peace Corps-like postings is Concern America, which works in a few countries in Latin America. These programs have highly varied missions, eligibility requirements, application processes, etc.

6. Unpaid, short-term, entry-level jobs ("internships")

If you can’t get a paid internship or other experience, or if there are simply no paid internships or entry-level jobs available in the area you’re interested, working without pay for three months to a year may be an option if you can afford it. By “afford it,” we mean that you will either live with your parents or other relations, live on savings, and/or work part-time at a paid job (can you say “barrista”?).

Unpaid internships can provide you with some experience and networking opportunities that you can then use to try to land a paying job (or go to graduate school). This is not always the case -- an excellent article by Alexandra Kimball describes how frustrating her experience was with unpaid internships. Her experience was in journalism rather than public/global health, but many of the same considerations apply.
To avoid getting exploited as an unpaid intern, it's very worthwhile getting an agreement in writing before you start re: how much you are expected to work, what the term of the internship might be, what your duties will and will not include, who will mentor you and what form that mentorship will take, whether or not you have a unique project to work on (recommended -- if you are just manning a desk interchangeably with others, you are really more of a volunteer than an intern), and whether or not there are prospects of a paid job if you perform well.

It is not possible for us to keep a comprehensive or up-to-date listing here even of good places to look, let alone individual postings. It's also probably safe to say that most unpaid, internship-like positions with non-profits and government agencies are never posted anywhere (or at least not widely), but are the result of someone like you lobbying an organization to let you work with them in some capacity or other.

There are lots of ways to find organizations you might like to work with. A few of these:

A. Network – Talk with faculty whose courses you have enjoyed or with whom you have done research, and ask them what organizations they recommend trying to work with.

B. Explore lists made by others – Look around the web and you can find directories of reputable global health organizations. One of the best is from Tulane University's School of Tropical Medicine and Public Health – see http://tulane.edu/publichealth/students/career-internships.cfm

C. Search the Worldwide Association of Nongovernmental Agencies (note that you must pay to join WANGO to see all of the info. they have on any given group; you can, however, find the names of groups and then find those groups on Ye Olde Internet with a search engine). You can also search using the somewhat clunky Associations Unlimited (find AU through the UW library's databases search page; their "custom search" tends to work best with only a couple of fields completed, e.g. "country" and "subject descriptor" – ask a librarian for help!).

Please feel free to talk with a certificate advisor for more specific tips on searching for positions related to your area(s) of interest.

7. Paid, permanent jobs

As noted in the introduction, most paid, permanent jobs in global health require a graduate degree and/or at least a few years of experience, but some don’t. Even if you aren’t looking for a permanent job now, it can be worthwhile looking now at jobs you would like to have later so you can see what qualifications you’ll need to get to be a good candidate.

It's impossible for us to maintain a list of current jobs. However, here are a few representative job listings and/or directories of organizations that you might want to explore (note that all are outside UW and may require you to create your own account to access information):

1. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "Jobs Overseas" as well as their main jobs page
2. Idealist.com
3. Indeed.com
4. Interaction: A United Voice for Global Change
5. Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Career Services
6. Emory’s Public Health Employment Connection
7. PublicHealthJobs.net
8. Public Health Jobs Worldwide
9. US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (only an option for those like nurses, dieticians, and others who have completed a medical degree, but for those people, an interesting option)
10. US Foreign Service (not directly health related, but a potentially interesting option for gaining experience abroad)

8. Short Field Experiences

If you are about to graduate and are interested in getting more global health field experience but have just a few weeks or months open to do that (say, between May graduation and starting graduate school in the fall), then if you have the money to do so you may want to pursue a short field experience run by an organization outside UW. There are many hundreds of organizations that run experiences like this -- some are very course-like, while some are less course-like and mostly focus on volunteerism. Some are shady, encourage you to do things you're not qualified to do, or have other problems. Please talk to an advisor if you'd like to discuss how to evaluate programs like this and get names of some of the better-regarded organizations that run them.