

Global Health Elective
EMED 5007

Eligible: All but completion of 3rd year recommended

Months offered: By arrangement

Description: This will be a supervised clinical experience with students engaging in patient care under the direct supervision of faculty trained and familiar with travel medicine, clinical tropical medicine, and medicine in the developing world. Opportunities exist ranging from hospital-based experience to remote mobile village clinics. Students may join AU faculty on a planned trip anywhere in the world, or arrange their own experience to a site where they will be supervised. A number of lectures and reading materials are required as appropriate to traveling in developing nations. Some six months planning and interaction with the course director/team leader, and medical school administration must occur before the beginning of the rotation month. This allows for appropriate time to begin vaccinations, plan travel and organize supplies. Students will be responsible for all costs, e.g. airfare and ground expenses.

As an elective for credit toward graduation from medical school, it is inherent that the experience have significant medical educational content; eg a foreign language immersion class will not be approved unless there is patient contact to practice those skills.

Although this course has an Emergency Medicine, the course does not have to be an EM experience. The course can cover any specialty. Students must be able to identify a supervising physician who will be at the location during their rotation and who will be primarily responsible for student supervision and completing an evaluation form.

Goals for Global Health Elective

- Gain knowledge about the diagnosis and clinical management of acute and chronic medical problems in an international setting.
- Understand the complexity involved in the delivery of public health in parts of the world where resources are limited. Learning to think beyond disease states as drivers of public health.
- Increase history taking and physical exam skills by applying them in settings where advanced imaging and laboratory tests are less available.
- Learn how to communicate and care for patients with the additional challenges of cultural and language barriers

Website

http://www.augusta.edu/studyabroad/ist_globalhealth.php

Application Process

The study abroad webpage details the process with links to several websites.

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1. Identify the elective opportunity you are interested in. There is no one option. Students are encouraged to seek out their own opportunities. Our 4 primary suggestions for where to start looking for an elective are listed below. You should aim to start the application process to these programs at least 6 months in advance.
 - a. VSLO program – this works similarly to setting up away electives at other US institutions. Visit <https://students-residents.aamc.org/attending-medical-school/article/about-vslo/> for more details and to start your application
 - b. Traditional Chinese Medicine Rotation through Shanghai University
 - c. Child and Family Health International – this is an independent organization that has an excellent reputation for helping students with international electives
 - d. Find your own elective
2. Curriculum Office - Submit completed International Elective Application to Jennifer Boone in the curriculum office. This is separate from your VSLO application and includes information such as:
 - a. Description of rotation– where you are going and what you will be doing, while you are there
 - b. Rotation specific goals and objectives
 - c. Information regarding supervising faculty member on site
3. Office of Global Health - Once reviewed by the curriculum office your elective application will be forwarded to the Director of Global Health for sign off. There is no separate application form needed for the EMED 5007 elective beyond completing the international elective application. The Director of Global Health will review the application form to make sure it meets the elective requirements. Please be aware elective travel WILL NOT be approved to countries that are designated by the US State Department as a travel advisory level 4. Electives to countries designated by the State Department as a travel advisory level 3 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Once approved by the Director of Global Health the international application form will be sent to Dr. Fly for final review and approval.
4. Study abroad office – before you can travel you must ALSO complete the Individual Student Travel form through the study abroad office. This is an easy online form where students submit contact information for their trip. You are also strongly encouraged to obtain travel insurance through the study abroad office. Once the IST form is completed the study abroad office will notifying the curriculum office that all study abroad paperwork is complete

5. Curriculum Office – Dr. Fly will review both completed application form and completed study abroad paperwork. Final approval over proposed elective rests with the curriculum office and can only be considered once all paperwork is complete.
6. Students are responsible for tracking their application submitted through VSLO or any applications submitted to outside organizations.