International Clinical Electives
Partner Placements

Dalhousie University
Global Health Office
2014-15
Welcome from the Global Health Office

The Global Health Office (GHO) has been supporting students who are planning electives abroad for more than ten years. From an ethical approach to developing partnerships in clinical electives, the GHO works to ease the burden on students and hosts. We have developed relationships with each partner, allowing greater support from Dalhousie University, a better understanding of students’ capacity on the part of the host institutions and an overall easier placement.

Our partnerships have been selected based on hosts’ capacity to support students, positive assessments by previous medical students and the strength of the partnerships with the Faculty of Medicine. To provide focused, consistent and quality placements for students seeking electives abroad and to align with current accreditation standards, all international medical electives must follow the international electives policy for placement approval (see appendix for policy details).

A complete list of clinical elective partners and placement details are included here to help you in selecting a placement. The planning checklist included on page three will help to ensure that you don’t miss anything as you plan your international elective.

**International Clinical Electives Partner Placements (2014-15)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia Gambia Association</td>
<td>The Gambia</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFMS Exchanges</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKU</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Cheng Kung University</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butare, National University of Rwanda</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown Public Hospital – Government of Guyana</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASADA</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTCIH</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bezmialem Vakif University</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMU</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMC Vellore</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cebu Doctor’s</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University College of Medicine - pending</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical University of Graz - pending</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pre-Departure Checklist

Step 1: Choose your elective/placement

☐ Select your international placement
☐ Check the Travel Report and Warnings of any countries you intend to visit at Government of Canada’s travel website (electives in countries where Foreign Affairs Canada has issued a Level 3 “Avoid Non-essential Travel” advisory will not be approved)

Step 2: Submit your applications

☐ Submit an application to the host institution requesting an elective placement, if required
☐ Submit an application to the GHO through our global health elective application form
☐ Submit an elective proposal application through One45
☐ Register for your course/elective through Dal Online, if necessary (required for SWIF funding and Med 1/2)

Step 3: Prepare for your trip

☐ Complete the GHO pre-departure orientation session
☐ Ensure your passport is up-to-date and valid for at least six months beyond the date of your trip
☐ Check for any visa requirements for any countries you’ll be visiting and apply if necessary

Step 4: Medical preparations

☐ At a travel clinic: obtain all necessary vaccinations/medications (these may take up to three months to complete), request a prescription for an HIV PEP and review the policy guidelines for HIV prevention
☐ Complete the global health office health checklist
☐ Purchase supplemental health insurance and travel insurance
☐ Make flight arrangements, including trip cancellation coverage

Step 5: Safety planning

☐ Register your emergency contact information with The International Centre & ROCA
☐ Give a copy of your passport, placement details, travel itinerary and emergency contacts to a relative or close friend in Canada, bring a copy with you too

Step 6: Budgeting

☐ Apply for the International Centre Study/Work International Fund (SWIF).
☐ Fourth year medical students may be eligible to apply for a Global Health Bursary

While abroad

☐ Contact the Canadian Consulate, the International Center or the GHO in an emergency
☐ For students who wish to contact the GHO through Skype, our username is Global.Health.Office

Upon your return

☐ Submit your GHO Quicklist and Narrative Report
☐ If you’re feeling unwell, visit your physician and share details of the countries you have visited (a TB test is required if you’ve been exposed to the disease)
Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health &
Saint Francis District Referral Hospital

http://www.ifakara.org
http://www.healthtrainingifakara.org

Mlabani Passage
P.O. BOX 39, Ifakara, Tanzania,
Phone: +255 23 262 5018,
+255 77 307 1037,
Fax: +255 23 262 5028

TTCIH is the only centre in Tanzania that offers a unique combination of health training, research and clinical practice in a rural setting. TTCIH provides quality training facilities and services for the strengthening of human resources development in Tanzania and international health sector. Clinical elective placements (med 4 only) are offered through Saint Francis Hospital.

Elective Contact: final year students must request and submit applications directly to Dalhousie’s Global Health Office at gho@dal.ca at least 5 months before proposed elective date

Program Details

Students learn about health problems, health systems, and the roles of various health professions in Tanzania. St. Francis Hospital has 371 beds and is divided into departments for Surgery, Internal Medicine, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Paediatrics, Chronic Diseases and Intensive Care. Additionally, there are outpatients’ departments and wards for Tuberculosis, Dental Medicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Psychiatry, Leprosy, Rehabilitation, an X-ray department and a laboratory.

Agreement/MOU: active

Comments: All interested students must submit their requests for electives through the Global Health Office. Please do not contact TTCIH or SFDRH directly.
National University of Rwanda
Le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Butare

http://www.nur.ac.rw/
http://www.chub.org.rw/

National University of Rwanda, HUYE campus
University Avenue
P.O. Box: 56 BUTARE RWANDA
Phone: 250 (0) 252 530122
Fax: 250 (0) 252 530121
E-mail: info@nur.ac.rw

National University of Rwanda (NUR) is the first Rwandan university created in 1963. Mainly, NUR offers 39 Bachelors degree programs, 24 Masters Programs as well as MPhil and PhD programs by research that can be offered by all disciplines available at NUR. At the National University of Rwanda’s Faculty of Medicine, our vision as a medical educational institution in Rwanda is to become a center of excellence and radiance in teaching, medical research and community service suitable for the health improvement for the population of Rwanda and the region. Elective placements are offered through Le Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Butare (CHUB).

Elective Contact: students may submit an email request directly to Dr. Ndoli Jules, ndolijules@yahoo.fr
http://www.medecine.nur.ac.rw/

Butare Teaching Hospital is a 500 bed institution and is located at Mamba, District of HUYE in the Southern Province of Rwanda. It is a National Reference Hospital which serves the former Provinces of Butare, Gikongoro and Cyangugu. Clinical electives are offered in a variety of departments including Internal Medicine, Emergency, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Mental Health, Tropical/Infectious diseases, Neurology, Hematology, HIV Clinic, Dermatology, Pediatrics, Surgery, Gyn and Obstetrics

Agreement/MOU: active

Comments: The CHUB website is frequently down, email response time is often slow but elective experiences have all been extremely positive.
Pastoral Activities and Services for people with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA)
http://www.pasada.or.tz/

PASADA
P.O.Box 70225
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: pasada@Pasada.or.tz
tel: +255 022 286 5451

Pastoral Activities and Services for people with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA) is a social service agency operating under the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam that was begun in August 1992 when a small group of people with HIV gathered to seek mutual aid and support. PASADA has grown rapidly to meet the exploding demands of the HIV pandemic in the Dar es Salaam urban area. PASADA strives to reach the poorest of the poor living with HIV and provide them with holistic care and support services. Although sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church, the services offered by PASADA are available to all individuals without discrimination of any sort and completely free of charge. Additionally, educational programs are carried out at community level with the objective of reducing stigma and discrimination and promoting behavioral change, thereby limiting the spread of the virus.

Elective Contact: students must request and submit applications directly to Dalhousie’s Global Health Office at gho@dal.ca

Group Summer Program Details
Up to six students learn about health problems, health systems, and the roles of various health professions in Tanzania. The summer program offers a first-hand opportunity to learn about global health challenges being faced by those living in Tanzania. The aim of the program is to be an entry point for students eager to engage with global health issues in under-resourced communities. Five weeks long (including one week intensive language classes).

Applications are due in November.

Agreement/MOU: active

Comments: PASADA may accept individual elective students in Med 4. Please contact the global health office for more information.
Georgetown Public Hospital

Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Administrative Building
New Market Street
Georgetown, Guyana

Administrative Contact: georgetown_hospital@hotmail.com

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, a 620-bed hospital, is the main referral hospital of Guyana. The hospital is centrally located in Georgetown, the capital city of Guyana. Clinical electives at the Georgetown Public Hospital are an opportunity for medical students to become familiar with a wide spectrum of diseases in various stages of their natural history. Students will get firsthand experience of many tropical diseases and common health problems of a developing country. During the elective period students will attend daily ward rounds conducted by the consultants of the respective clinical departments.

Elective Contact: Michael H Khan, gphchosp@hotmail.com

Program Details

Clinical electives are offered in Anaesthesiology, Accident & Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry & Mental Health, and Paediatrics. Open to Med 4 students only.

Persons who are desirous of performing electives at GPHC must apply in writing on the prescribed application forms. Forms should be properly filled out and forwarded to:

Director, Medical & Professional Services
Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Administrative Building
New Market Street
Georgetown, Guyana

Agreement/MOU: active

Comments: PT students have had very positive experiences and are in country in Jan-Feb. Med 4 students only.
Christian Medical College – Vellore

http://www.cmch-vellore.edu/

Ida Scudder Road,
Vellore – 632004
Tamil Nadu, India

Tel : 0416-2222102, 2281000, 2286001, 3070000
Fax: 0416 - 2232035, 2232103

The Christian Medical College Association is a non government, private, inter-denominational Christian organisation. The object of the Association is the establishment, maintenance and development of a Christian Medical College in India where women and men shall receive an education of the highest grade in the art and science of Medicine and Nursing or in one of the Allied Health professions, to equip them in the spirit of Christ, for service in the relief of suffering and the promotion of health.

The CMC community today is made up of an interesting and diverse group of people,- students and faculty come from all over India. Visitors come from Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Kenya, the Middle East, New Zealand, USA and many other countries. The interchange between varied people and cultures provides a rewarding and stimulating experience.

Elective Contact: princi@cmcvellore.ac.in

Program Details
Placements are offered throughout the year, except for the months of May and December. Exchange students are accepted throughout the year. The Supervisor who is the overall in-charge of the foreign medical students is the Vice-Principal (undergraduate medical education), at Principal’s Office, Christian Medical College.

More information:
http://www.cmch-vellore.edu/EducationAdmissions/StudentElectives/tabid/96/Default.aspx

Agreement/MOU: in discussion

Comments
Bezmialem Vakif University

http://www.bezmialem.edu.tr/

Adnan Menderes Bulvarı Vatan Caddesi 34093 Fatih
Istanbul, Turkey

Bezmialem Vakif University is the first thematic research university in the Health and Life Sciences fields in Turkey. Founded in 1843, the University Hospital is the first hospital in our country’s history when it was established to offer free medical care for the poor, displaced or underprivileged regardless of their race, gender or religion. Foundation has successfully served this purpose for decades and treated people in its hospitals by covering majority of medical fields. Throughout the years, the University gained significant experience in cooperating with other major international medical schools and hospitals, including the exchange of staff members and available training in various levels.

Elective Contact: students must request and submit applications directly to Dalhousie’s Global Health Office at gho@dal.ca

Program Details

Bezmialem Vakif University hospital was built in 1843. When BVU founded in 2010, the hospital was dedicated to the university whereby it was converted to the university hospital. Later on, we started to modernize it in terms of outlook and equipment such as endosonography, radiotherapy and radiology, intraoperative radiotherapy and angiography as well as many others. Now, it is about 55 thousand square meters. Additionally our hospital is very crowded with patients; at least 5000 patients are examined in outpatient clinics per day. The hospital has also got 500 beds and more than 100 ICU beds. Our hospital emergency unit is the biggest and the most modernized in Istanbul, where more than 1000 patients visit to be examined per day. We also have 25 modern operation rooms in which more than 1000 surgical operation are done in a day.

Bezmialem Vakif University, Faculty of Medicine is a non-for-profit multispecialty academic medical center including 550-bed hospital, centralized outpatient facilities, a research institute and educational facilities. Electives are available in a variety of disciplines including surgery, emergency, pediatrics, internal medicine (please visit website for a complete list of departments).

Agreement/MOU: in discussion

Comments

Partnership coordinated with support from Munire.Gundogan@iwk.nshealth.ca
University of Queensland

Brisbane, Australia

http://www.som.uq.edu.au

The University of Queensland
Brisbane QLD 4072 Australia

UQ’s School of Medicine is Australia’s Global Medical School, offering a variety of well organized clinical training opportunities within Australia and internationally. The School of Medicine is ranked highly both nationally and internationally, recognized as one of four world class Medical Schools in Australia.

Elective Contact: electives@som.uq.edu.au

Program Details

Medical elective placements are available to all Queensland, interstate and international medical students who have completed at least 1 semester of clinical training and wish to complete a medical elective from 4-8 weeks in duration.

The placements are available for electives only and are not to be considered as an intricate assessed placement. There may be opportunities to attend current tutorials but The University of Queensland do not provide summative assessment or formal teaching sessions related to your approved elective placement.

We offer placements in a wide range of medical and surgical disciplines. We will try our best to accommodate your first preference, then second or third. However, we cannot guarantee that the clinical placements offered will always be available.

Agreement/MOU: in discussion

Comments: applications are accepted in block registration beginning in August and February. Submit as soon as possible after registration opens to avoid disappointment – these placements are very popular.
Nova Scotia Gambia Association
http://novascotiagambia.ca

Gambia Teachers Union Cooperative Credit Union (GTUCCU)
Building Kanifing Industrial Area (Opposite Gambia Bureau of Statistics)
PMB 706, Kanifing, The Gambia
Tel / Fax: 011+220-4399336

Since 1985, the Nova Scotia-Gambia Association (NSGA) has worked with West Africans and Canadians to build healthy communities in The Gambia. Through education and health promotion initiatives, NSGA staff and volunteers have become a major force in youth and community education in West Africa.

NSGA works to foster youth leadership, develop skills, and encourage citizenship. Its programs feature interactive and multi-media techniques that demonstrate a positive spirit and creative energy.

Elective Contact: students must request and submit applications directly to Dalhousie’s Global Health Office at gho@dal.ca

Group Summer Program Details

The Summer Program in the Gambia is an inter-professional program open to students in Med 1, Med 2 and Nursing (3rd year). This partnership program begun in summer 2012 between the Global Health Office (GHO) and the Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA) focused on Peer Health/Public Health Outreach Programs for students in the respective faculties.

Students will develop and conduct information and training sessions in human sexuality and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS and STIs, for NSGA trainers and drama troupe members; assist in the development and/or delivery of health components of the Peer Health Education program in schools and communities in The Gambia.

Applications are due in November.

Agreement/MOU: pending annual renewal

Comments: NSGA may accept individual elective students. Please contact the global health office for more information.
CFMS/IFMSA Electives

Various international locations

For more details please visit the CFMS website: http://www.cfms.org/

Elective Contact: Contact your Local Exchange Officer at Dalhousie University

Program Details

Canada participates in a bilateral international exchange program where medical students undertake clinical electives or research projects in a foreign country for a period of four weeks. This is the 20th year that the CFMS is offering clinical exchanges and the 13th year that it is offering research exchanges to its members.

Last year over 60 Canadian medical students participated in the IFMSA-CFMS exchange program. LEOs (Local Exchange Officers) at each medical school facilitate the process for outgoing Canadian medical students, as well as for incoming international medical students.

Applications are accepted in the fall into this competitive program.

Agreement/MOU: in discussion

Comments: All CFMS electives must also be registered with the Global Health Office. Mandatory pre-departure training is provided by the Global Health Office.
National Cheng Kung University

http://web.ncku.edu.tw/bin/home.php?Lang=en

No.1, University Road
Tainan City 701, Taiwan (R.O.C.)
TEL: +886-6-2757575

Administrative Contact: Jui Chen, jjc81@mail.ncku.edu.tw

Founded as “Tainan District School for Higher Education” in 1931, and later renamed “National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in 1971, this comprehensive university earns its reputation as the cradle for future generations of professionals in various fields of study. The Medical College and its affiliated hospital were approved by the Executive Yuan in 1981, and opened its doors in 1984, led by Dr. Kun-Yen Huang.

Elective Contact: request and submit applications to Jui Chen, jjc81@mail.ncku.edu.tw

Program Details

The National Cheng Kung University Hospital affiliated with the College of Medicine offers clinical electives for foreign students who have completed the basic medical sciences and part of required clerkship in the enrolled medical school. In order to be eligible for a limited number of clinical clerkship positions for foreign medical students, the following requirements must be met: students must be healthy and in good academic standing at their own medical school; and students must have completed the course of basic medical sciences.

The Department of Internal Medicine offers sub-specialties which rotate every two weeks. Applicants who wish to apply to this department should specify the sub-specialty of their choice. These include: Cardiovascular, Chest/Pulmonary Medicine, Hepato-gastroenterology, Rheumatology and Immunology, Hemato-oncology, Nephrology, Infectious Diseases, Endocrinology.

http://www.med.ncku.edu.tw/ia/clinical%20attachment.htm

Jui Chen
Office of International Affairs
College of Medicine, National Cheng Kung University
1 Ta Hsueh Rd., Tainan 701
Taiwan

Agreement/MOU: active

Comments
International Medical University

www.imu.edu.my

IMU MAIN CAMPUS, BUKIT JALIL
No.126, Jalan Jalil Perkasa 19,
Bukit Jalil,
57000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

+603 8656 7228

The IMU is Malaysia’s first private medical education institution. The IMU with its unique partnership with world renowned Universities ensures the training of doctors through its international benchmarking, high standards of academic quality, innovative curriculum and inculcation of strong social and ethical values. Dalhousie University is IMU’s only partner in Canada.

Elective Contact: students must request and submit applications directly to Dalhousie’s Global Health Office at gho@dal.ca at least 5 months before proposed elective date

Program Details
http://imu.edu.my/student-mobility/inbound-opportunities/
http://imu.edu.my/student-mobility/inbound-landing/how-to-apply/

Agreement/MOU: active

Comments:
Khon Kaen University

http://www.kku.ac.th
http://www.md.kku.ac.th/en

Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University
123 Mittraparp Highway,
Muang, Khon Kaen 40002 THAILAND

Tel: +66 (0) 43 363466, 363377, 363491
Fax: +66 (0) 43 348375

www.md.kku.ac.th/irs

Khon Kaen University (KKU) is one of four regional universities established in 1964 as part of a decentralized development plan for higher education in Thailand. The campus is located in the northwest sector of Khon Kaen, just a few kilometers from the center of the city. The Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University is a leading institution in ASEAN with excellence in academic, has internationally recognized education standards, has research and service for solving the health problem of the Northeast region and of the nation of Thailand, and good governance.

Elective Contact: students must request and submit applications directly to Dalhousie’s Global Health Office at gho@dal.ca at least 5 months before proposed elective date.

Program Details
Khon Kaen University in north eastern Thailand accepts students in both clinical and non-clinical departments. It is recommended that student submit their application at least six months in advance and clearly indicate whether the elective requested is for observership or practice.

http://www.md.kku.ac.th/irs/

Agreement/MOU: active

Comments
Cebu Doctors University, College of Medicine

http://www.cebudoctorsuniversity.edu/2013/colleges/medicine/index.html

Cebu Doctors' University
1 Dr. P. V. Larrazabal Jr. Avenue,
North Reclamation Mandaue City 6014, Cebu Philippines
+63(32)238-8333

Cebu Doctors’ University College of Medicine is committed to produce not only excellent and dedicated health care providers who render preventive, curative, and rehabilitative care, but also educators, social mobilizers, managers, and researchers with the investigative attitude and skills for clinical and applied research. These physicians will be leaders responsive to the dynamic global demands and imbued with compassion, as well as moral and ethical consciousness.

Elective Contact: cdu-cm@cebudoctorsuniversity.edu

http://www.cebudoctorsuniversity.edu/2013/colleges/medicine/rotation.html

Email the Dean, Cebu Doctors' University College of Medicine, stating your request to do your elective rotation in a particular department at least two months before the planned start of the rotation. Include the proposed starting date, duration, and ending date of the elective rotation.

Program Details

Elective rotation is done at Cebu Doctors' University Hospital, the teaching hospital of Cebu Doctors’ University College of Medicine. It has the following departments that accept students who wish to do electives: Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Radiology, and Pathology. In addition, the College also accepts students for a Community Medicine rotation at Kauswagan, its community outreach program.

The following are the documents required before the applicant can be accepted:

- Dean’s certificate of current enrollment during the time that you will have your elective rotation
- one copy of your Transcript of Records
- one letter of recommendation from one of your current professors
- one 2” x 2” colored identification photograph (if sent as attachment to email, at least 200 dpi resolution, JPEG format)

You may send these as attachments to your e-mail or you may fax them to +63 (32) 238-8764.

At present, Cebu Doctors’ University College of Medicine charges an elective program fee of approximately eight thousand pesos (PHP8,000.00) per two weeks rotation (minimum of four weeks). Payment may be made upon enrollment. CDU can assist you in arranging for lodging near the hospital. Pension houses near the hospital charge about $10-$12 a day.

Agreement/MOU: may be added in 2015-16

Comments

Last updated: August 5, 2014
Medical University of Graz

http://www.medunigraz.at

Medical University of Graz
Mozartgasse 12/2
8010 Graz, Austria
Phone: +43.316.380-4030 or -4036 or -4008
Fax: +43.316.380-9629

Administrative Contact: international.office@medunigraz.at

The University of Graz was founded in 1585 as one of the first universities in Central Europe. Since 1863, when the Medical Faculty was built up, the University contributes to the flourishing of the “academic-city” Graz. In 2004, the Medical University was outsourced from the Karl-Franzens-University and became an independent university that comprises 3 research centers, 36 clinics and institutes and 1,500 employees. At the moment about 5,300 students are registered at the Medical University of Graz.

Clinical Elective Contact (Med 4): petra.papst@medunigraz.at

Observership Elective Contact (Med 1, 2): irene.stradner@medunigraz.at


Program Details:
The Medical University of Graz offers doctors and students from around the world the opportunity to observe our physicians when they are engaged in clinical work. This medical training or clinical elective provides insight into the day-to-day responsibilities of our doctors in their respective specialties. Each participants of the observership (no hands-on) will be matched with a faculty member who will serve as their mentor during the observership.

Clinical and Observer electives are available.

Clinical electives at the Medical University of Graz generally comprise the following tasks:

- integration to staff at respective Clinical Department
- observation and participation in examinations, treatments and clinical rounds
- analysis and presentation of clinical cases
- learning about the Austrian health care model

Students agree to follow the regular routine at the respective departments. Daily presence is expected from 8 am to 4 pm or as directed by department staff. Clinical Elective Confirmations are only issued, if a minimum attendance of 85% is achieved.

Agreement/MOU: In process

Comments

Last updated: August 5, 2014
Appendix

International Elective Policy for Undergraduate Medical Education Students
Approved by Curriculum Committee: August 22, 2013
Approved by Faculty Council: June 24, 2014

1. Preamble & Purpose

The Global Health Office at Dalhousie University aims to improve global health and equity through scholarship, shared leadership and sustainable partnerships in Canada and abroad. International electives occur in settings outside those accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and are an increasingly common component of undergraduate medical education. As of 2010, two out of every three North American medical graduates completed a global health elective during their studies (Huish, 2012). A priority area of the Global Health Office’s work is to coordinate and facilitate international electives for Dalhousie medical students.

As of the 2013/2014 academic year, accreditation standards explicitly require formal processes for international electives, as outlined here:

MS-20. If a medical student at a medical education program is permitted to take an elective under the auspices of another medical education program, institution, or organization, there should be a centralized system in the dean’s office at the home program to review the proposed extramural elective prior to approval and to ensure the return of a performance assessment of the student and an evaluation of the elective by the student.

Information about issues such as the following should be available, as appropriate, to inform the program’s review of the learning experience prior to its approval:

- potential risks to the health and safety of patients, students, and the community;
- the availability of emergency care;
- the possibility of natural disasters, political instability, and exposure to disease;
- the need for additional preparation prior to, support during, and follow-up after the elective;
- the level and quality of supervision; and
- any potential challenges to the code of medical ethics adopted by the home institution.

International electives must be approved by the Global Health Office and Undergraduate Medical Education to be recognized on a student’s academic record.

The purpose of this Policy is to set a framework to ensure safety and educational quality across international elective experiences and to ensure electives meet accreditation standards.

2. Location of International Electives

There are two types of locations for an international elective: high-income country and low-middle income country.
i) A high-income country is classified by the World Bank as countries having a GNP per capita of $12,476 or more in 2011.

http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications

ii) A low-middle income country is classified by the World Bank as having an income of $1,025 or less (low income country) or $1,026 - $4,035 (lower-middle income country) in 2011.

“Low- and middle-income economies are sometimes referred to as developing economies. The term is used for convenience; it is not intended to imply that all economies in the group are experiencing similar development or that other economies have reached a preferred or final stage of development.”

http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications

3. Student Programs

There are two types of student programs for international electives which can either be a group program or an independent elective.

i) Group Program Electives: These are interprofessional, non-credit, group programs coordinated, facilitated and evaluated by the Global Health Office and are primarily focused on first and second year medical students. These programs are delivered by approved partner institutions with established education programs for medical students. As of the date of this Policy, these programs take place with partner institutions in Thailand, Tanzania, and The Gambia.

ii) Independent Electives: Students may request an independent elective through the approved partner list. Academic criteria and risk management criteria must be met for elective approval.

Upon mutual agreement, an elective may be allowed outside the approved list of partner institutions, based on the criteria in section 4, with joint approval from the Global Health Office and UGME. An example of this type of elective is students returning to their home country.

4. Institutional Partnership Criteria

Strengthening partnerships between institutions can contribute to the advancement of global health, when these relationships are carried out in the spirit of equity and fairness (Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research, 2009). Strong institutional partnerships also contribute to effective monitoring and evaluation of international student electives.

Institutional partnerships are approved based on the following criteria:

i. The partner has a shared vision or principles with Dalhousie University

ii. An education and/or research relationship between Dalhousie and the partner institution is emerging, established, or ongoing

iii. The partner institution meets Dalhousie’s recommended legal requirements and this is confirmed in an appropriate written agreement between the parties

Last updated: August 5, 2014
iv. Infrastructure for visiting students and faculty at the partner institution can accommodate the student’s learning objectives without straining institutional resources.

v. There is mutual benefit for both institutions and the relationship is sustainable.

vi. The following information will be assessed and available, as appropriate, to inform the program’s review of the learning experience prior to approval:

- potential risks to the health and safety of patients, students, and the community
- availability of emergency care
- possibility of natural disasters, political instability, and exposure to disease
- need for additional preparation prior to, support during, and follow-up after the elective
- level and quality of supervision
- any potential challenges to the code of medical ethics adopted by the home institution

vii. Any other criteria which may be relevant to the specific elective being proposed.

The Global Health Office will post the list of partner institutions on their website and in the Undergraduate Medical Education electives manual. The list of partner institutions will be reviewed annually by the Global Health Office.

5. Academic Criteria

Additional criteria must be met for each student’s elective to be approved. These criteria address language, elective length, security, pre-departure training and academic standing.

i. Language

The working language of the student matches the partner institution. The partner institution may provide interpretation only when it does not strain institutional resources.

ii. Elective Length

Given the cultural adjustment period, the preparation time required for the student, partner institution and Dalhousie to arrange the elective, and the added challenges in many international settings, students may need a longer period of time in an International Elective to ensure they achieve a comparable learning experience and spend an appropriate amount of time in the clinical setting. For these reasons:

a. International electives for Med I and II students must be a minimum of 4 weeks

b. International electives for Med III and IV students must be a minimum of 3 weeks

iii. Pre-Departure Requirements

The Global Health Education Committee, comprised of staff, faculty and students, will conduct an annual review of pre-departure training and resources to ensure relevance, and that best practices are applied in this training.

Students planning an international elective in a High Income Country must attend an abridged pre-departure training provided by the Global Health Office that focuses on safety and logistics.

Last updated: August 5, 2014
Students planning an international elective in a Low Middle Income Country must attend a full pre-departure training with the Global Health Office that includes safety, logistics, ethics, cultural competency, travel health and working in low resource settings as per Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) guidelines.

An online option is available to students who are unable to attend in person or via video conference.

iv. Academic
All students participating in Global Health Electives must be in good academic standing as per policies within Undergraduate Medical Education

6. Application Process for UGME Student

Students who wish to complete an international elective must follow the process outlined below:

1. The student must register their intended international elective in Dalhousie’s international database (MoveOn) with the Global Health Office at least twelve weeks before the proposed start date.

2. The student must submit a completed International Clerkship Rotation Form and Clerkship Elective Proposal (in One45) for approval to the Undergraduate Medical Education Office at least eight weeks prior to the proposed start date.

3. When the Global Health Office approves the international elective, Med 1 and Med 2 students must also register their international electives in Banner to ensure continued medical malpractice insurance coverage.

7. Risk Management

All electives must meet the university-wide risk management policy. Additionally, the following conditions must be met.

i. Security Status

The Global Health Office monitors the travel advisory reports from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Therefore, international electives will not be approved in locations where DFAIT has issued an elevated travel warning, as per Dalhousie’s International Travel Policy.

ii. Travel Health Requirements

Before departure, students must:

- Provide proof (to the Global Health Office) of their visit to a travel clinic or family physician who advises on vaccines, medications and appropriate health measures for travel abroad
- Follow the Global Health Office’s travel health guidelines, concerning HIV-PEP (written and approved by Dalhousie University’s Division of Infectious Diseases); Mantoux testing; and sterile syringes and needles.

Last updated: August 5, 2014
Global Health Office, Dalhousie University

8. Evaluation and Assessment

A. Student Feedback

Students must complete and submit an elective feedback report to the Global Health Office within one month of their return to Canada. These reports contribute to the Global Health Office’s assessment of that particular elective and inform the Global Health Office, faculty and students about international electives through Dalhousie.

B. Student Assessment

International Electives must adhere to the same evaluation procedures as in-country electives, as determined by the academic program. The In-Training Evaluation Reports (ITER) for international electives will be distributed by the student and be completed electronically by preceptors at the partner institution. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure their preceptor submits a completed ITER within four weeks of completing the elective.

9. Reporting

Program data is presented in the Annual Report to the President’s Office through the International Centre and Faculty of Medicine’s Education Council and Curriculum Committee.

10. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Director of the Global Health Office and the Program Manager. Any suggested changes will be referred to the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum Committee.