

Policies and Procedures

Subject: Electives - Residents Requesting Global Health (International) Clinical Learning Experiences	
Created: June 2005	Revised: Sept 2016; June 2018, June 2024
Reviewed and approved by the Residency Program Committee: June 2024	Next review date: June 2027

The goals of a Global Health Clinical Learning Experiences are to provide residents with additional skills and knowledge in public health, leadership, and clinical practice to enhance care to marginalized and vulnerable populations at home and abroad. A Global Health Clinical Learning Experience provides many potential benefits to the resident and to their future practice.

Overall learning principles:

- The Global Health Clinical Learning Experience enhances the resident’s clinical skills for underserved populations or resource-limited settings.
- Doctor-patient relationship skills will be enhanced in a cross-cultural context.
- The Global Health Clinical Learning Experience will help the residents to learn community-based principles and skills in an underserved and international context.
- A resident who is prepared to work internationally will develop skills to be a resource to an underserved practice population in Canada or in another global, resource-limited setting.

The following applies to requests for electives outside of Canada:

- Consider planning 1 year in advance of the elective. Requests must be submitted to the Site Administrator/Site Director in writing at least 6 months in advance.
- Learning objectives must be developed by the resident and approved by the Site Director.
- A debrief meeting (as a wellness check) must be completed following the clinical learning experience with a faculty member at the resident’s home site.
- Requirements outlined on the Global Health Office/Postgraduate Medical Education Office website must be met (<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/global-health/education/medical-residents.html>)
- Any clinical learning experience that is completed by a trainee that does not fulfill the above requirements will not be counted towards their residency training.
- In principle not more than four (4) weeks elective time should be taken outside the Maritime Provinces. Exceptions for extending this time may be allowed for global health clinical learning experiences, to a maximum of (8) weeks if approved by the Residency Program Committee Executive (RPCE). Requests should be submitted in writing to the RPCE.
- There must be a clearly designated elective supervisor.
- The resident must be enrolled in a recognized program at the time the clinical learning experience is taken.
- There must be a well-defined in-training assessment system to include evaluation of the resident during the elective period that is based on the educational objectives of the clinical learning experience and that is clearly understood beforehand by the resident, the elective supervisor, and the Site Director. This would include completion of an ITAR by the elective supervisor.