

POLICY

Department of Family Medicine Postgraduate Program

Electives - Residents Requesting Global Health (International) Clinical Learning Experiences

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 his/her 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:

- Learning objectives must be developed by the resident and approved by the Site Director.
- Pre-departure education must be completed.
- Reflection and debrief must be completed following the clinical learning experience.
- 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 his/her 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.
- 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 evaluation 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.

International Elective Planning Checklist for Residents: <https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/global-health/education/medical-residents/residents-checklist.html>