

Global Health Scholars Program (GHSP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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How much will the first year trip cost?

We believe that a reasonable estimate is about \$2500-3000 for the month. Students should anticipate raising the full amount.

How do I apply?

The application is available on the infonet under the Family Medicine site. The application and commitment form is located here:

http://www.hmc.psu.edu/fcm/global_health/

The forms may be completed and submitted online.

When does the program begin?

Applications will be accepted up until December 31st. The applications will be reviewed by the GHSP faculty, and new Global Health Scholars will be selected and notified by January 31st.

The Scholars will be notified of the first orientation session to be held in early Spring. Several preparatory sessions will be held in advance of the first year trip to Ecuador. The week prior to the trip in Ecuador will be spent with further trip preparation. The four-week trip to Ecuador will then occur at the end of May and into the beginning of June.

The planned schedule for the program is as follows

First year—preparatory and training sessions for first trip to Ecuador. Trip to Ecuador in late May through early June, accompanied by faculty.

Second year—further instruction (about monthly) on topics pertaining to global health. Team-building and joint-project development.

Third year—joint group health improvement project development.

Fourth year—second trip to Ecuador. Health improvement project implementation.

Does it count for my MSR?

Some students may be able to complete their MSR requirements by working with GHSP faculty. One significant focus of the program is that of improving community health in San Pablo. Consequently we believe opportunities exist for students to both complete an MSR as well as help improve community health simultaneously. As per MSR requirements, the project remains the student's responsibility including the analysis and write-up.

Where is the program working?

Currently the GHSP is partnering a NJ Rotary group with a seaside community called San Pablo, Ecuador. The NJ Rotary group has produced some very exciting and remarkable work in a nearby village called Rio Guayas.

What will the GHSP do?

The program will provide educational sessions in topics related to Global Health, including community health assessment. One key goal of the program is to measurably

improve the health of the population in San Pablo, Ecuador. Students are an integral part of the data-collection, planning, implementation and evaluation phases of health interventions.

What if I change my mind after the first year (either into or out of the program)?

All applicants are required to submit a letter of commitment with the application (see online application form). The program will require extra work beyond regular curricular contact hours, and as such the GHSP seeks individuals who will be committed to participating through all four years of medical school. This commitment is important because it impacts on the ability of other qualified students who were not selected, the team structure of the GHSP, and the ability of the team to provide health interventions for the town of San Pablo.

The program is designed to provide a continuity experience for a group of dedicated medical students, working as a team, to improve the health of the community of San Pablo. As such, the application process is open only to first year medical students.

We welcome questions and participation from more senior students (i.e. 2nd, 3rd and 4th year medical students), and we may be able to help make arrangements for an elective month in Ecuador. Please contact Dr. Brandt Groh for further information. However, from a programmatic standpoint we will only be accepting first year students for each cohort.

Do I need my own health insurance?

Yes. Students will need to purchase international health insurance. This may be purchased through Penn State's Student Insurance Office.

<http://www.sa.psu.edu/uhs/currentstudents/educabroadins.cfm>

Will I need a passport? Vaccinations?

Students will need a valid passport, and further information about obtaining a passport can be found on the global health website under the heading "Resources" or [you can click Ctrl-HERE](#).

The program will help students determine which immunizations and medications are recommended for travel to Ecuador. Our Student Health is able to provide the needed immunizations and prescriptions or students may utilize a nearby travel clinic in Harrisburg.

Will I get a grade/credit?

Upon completion of the program students will receive credit for completing two international electives. The first year course is awarded by the Department of Humanities. The fourth year credit is through the Center for Primary Care.

Can I take my wife/husband/friend?

Currently, due to limited accommodations in Ecuador this will not be feasible.

How fluent in Spanish do I need to be?

The more Spanish you know the better! Some of the medical personnel may know some English, but the patients are unlikely to know any English. Fluency in Spanish is not required but is preferred.

Can an MD/PhD student apply?

Yes. We may have to make certain adjustments to align the work of the MD/PhD student with the rest of the cohort, especially after the second year of medical school.

Is the program only accepting students interested in future employment in primary care or global health?

No. We are interested in highly qualified, highly interested medical students who will commit this aspect of their medical education toward gaining significant first-hand experience to improving the health of residents in a specific geographically-targeted area of public health and medical need.