

MED 891C Global Health Externship

Questions to Consider in Choosing an International Elective Site

1. Ethical Questions to Consider

- What are my motivations?
- What are your global health objectives?
- Is this a one-time rotation or an ongoing project (i.e., short term medical mission trip vs long term clinic or community project)?

2. Personal attributes essential for international work

- Flexibility, and humility are essential.
- Have you considered your tolerance for:
 - Travel uncertainties/risks/costs
 - Uncomfortable living conditions
 - Theft risk
 - Challenging cultural expectations
 - Disease/injury exposure
 - Frustrations about inability to help

3. Identify what broad scope of global health opportunities interest you.

- Clinical vs. research vs. education vs. public health vs. advocacy
- Rural vs. urban, Inpatient vs. outpatient, Specialty vs. Primary care
- New vs. established program
- Costs of rotation
- What do you hope to bring back to your community from this experience and who will you share it with?

4. Timing

- Identify length of rotation (2-4weeks) and when you will go.

5. Geography/language

- Is there a country or locale you would like to travel to?

- Are there special language requirements? Do you speak other languages? Are there interpreters if you do not speak the local language?
- How stable and safe is the location?

6. Other considerations

- Do you have any specific health needs or requirements (i.e., DM1 and need for refrigeration)?

7. Organization-specific questions

- What is the organization's mission?
 - How long has the organization been in this community?
 - Is this a profit or non-profit?
 - Religious or government or NGO or academic affiliation?
- Has another student traveled with the organization in the past? Evaluation of their experience?
- Look up the organization on GuideStar – <https://www.guidestar.org/search>
 - What type of preparation, in-country support, and post-exposure debriefing is provided?
 - Will there be a preceptor on-site for the entire elective?
 - Logistics for the site? (dress code, accommodations, internet, transportation, food, water, safety)?