

**GLBH 2101**  
**International Health Elective**

**Course Title:** International Health Elective

**Course Number:** GLBH 2101

**Department:** Office of Global Health

**Faculty Coordinator:** Mary Chang, MD, MPH

**Department Coordinator:** Christine Hall

**Site:** International location of student's interest

**Periods Offered:** All Periods

**Length:** 4 weeks (minimum).

Minimum contact hours: 30 per week

**Max # of Students:** Open to all students

**Prerequisites:** *Completion of Core Clerkships*

### **Course Description**

This rotation will serve as a clearinghouse for varied types of international health experiences to include formal clinical visiting clerkships or externships at an international university-affiliated program or similar experience under the guidance of a designated faculty member. This rotation will advance knowledge of global health issues through clinical service by facilitating a means for the student to:

1. Engage in preparation, participation, and reflection of an international health and medicine experience.
2. Increase one's cultural competency
3. Gain insight into health care disparities and the social determinants of health
4. Broaden clinical exposure and experience in the evaluation/management of diseases endemic in developing countries, but rarely encountered in the United States.

<b>Course Goals &amp; Objectives:</b>	<b>Assessment methods</b> ( <i>examples-explain how student will be evaluated</i> )
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Patient Care:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Teach students to gather accurate and essential information in a system without modern technological equipment.</li><li>2. Enhance students' ability to make diagnostic plans for patients in a system of limited technology and financial resources</li><li>3. Teach students to recognize acute diseases that are rare in the United States</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <i>Quality of Medical Records entries.</i></li><li>2. <i>Skills evaluation from direct observation.</i></li></ol>

**GLBH 2101**  
**International Health Elective**

<p>4. Teach students to develop management options for treatment of diseases rare in the United States.</p> <p>5. Teach students to develop management options for treatment of diseases common in the United States but with limited resources.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Medical knowledge:</b></p> <p>1. Teach students about acute medical diseases in developing world countries.</p> <p>2. Enhance students' ability to integrate and apply their basic science knowledge to these uncommon diseases.</p> <p>3. Expose students through reading and clinical experience to parasite infestations and infectious diseases not usually seen in the USA.</p>	<i>Case presentations</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interpersonal and communication skills:</b></p> <p>1. Expose the student to the challenges of cross-cultural communication in a multilingual context.</p> <p>2. Guide students in forming healthy cross-cultural relationships.</p> <p>3. Teach students the practical and ethical challenges of interpretation services in a clinical setting.</p>	<i>Observations of faculty and staff</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Practice Based learning and Improvement:</b></p> <p>1. Expose the students to the local patient population, helping them to observe how local health practices and superstition affect the patient.</p> <p>2. Demonstrate to students how to analyze and improve the quality of hospital and clinic practice in a developing country with limited technological and financial resources.</p>	<i>Observations of faculty and staff</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Professionalism:</b></p> <p>1. Demonstrate to the students a respect and compassion for each individual patient</p> <p>2. Expose the students to the ethical dilemmas posed in an overseas clinic or hospital such as limited resources, needs of poor patients, a competitive local medical community, maintaining the ethos of the hospital or clinic practice</p> <p>3. Demonstrate integrity in all aspects of medical practice.</p>	<i>Observations of faculty and staff</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Systems-based practice:</b></p> <p>1. Expose students to the various health care systems available in the international medical community</p> <p>2. Expose the student to specific ways in which the specific hospital or clinic experienced relates to the health care community so far as consultants, referrals, and partnerships</p> <p>3. Expose students to medical mission life and possible career in international health.</p>	<p>1. <i>Observations of faculty and staff</i></p> <p>2. <i>Reflection essay.</i></p>

**GLBH 2101**  
**International Health Elective**

**Methods of Instruction:**

- A. Didactic: Through attending daily and/or weekly grand rounds.
- B. Clinical: hospital rotations and clinic visits

**Pre-Departure Requirements:**

- Students must complete the online application for the course.
- Students must complete a pre-departure orientation before the proposed travel date.

**Post-Travel Requirements:**

Upon returning, all students must complete the following items *within 3 days* of the elective end date.

1. Online experience review in the UT Southwestern Global Health Data System.
2. Reflection essay:  
Reflection Essay (2-3 pages) should address *at least one* of the following topics:
  - Discuss an example of cross-cultural differences that did (or could have) impeded patient care. How did this situation impact the patient/doctor relationship?
  - Discuss a catalyst that helped you discover your personal weaknesses and limitations.
  - What level of patient care you were able to provide compared with what is generally considered acceptable in the United States for medical students? Discuss these differences in terms of ethics.
  - How were communications issues between you and patients resolved? Was the level of care you were able to provide affected by language limitations?
  - One page minimum
  - Format: double spaced, and 11 point Times New Roman font. ***Include your UT Southwestern approved logo, student name, course number, Name and address of the organization at which the rotation was completed and the dates of rotation in the header.***
  - Document must be saved as: ***"LastName\_FirstName\_CountryVisted\_ Date of Rotation"*** (example: Smith\_John\_Haiti\_02May2016.PDF).
3. PowerPoint Presentation on two (2) medical or public health case presentations (include patient history/physical exam, management, social determinants of health issues, other pertinent information) encountered in the host country.
4. International Senior Clinical Elective Evaluation Form

**Application Process:**

To submit an application, visit the REDCap link: [Global Health Student Opportunities Application](#)

Applications will be evaluated by the course director of this elective along with the Global Health Student Advisory Committee (GHSAC).

- Features of prior successful applications include:
  - Meaningful preparation plan that is linked to the proposed experience
  - Completion of the Pre-clinical Global Health elective
  - Formal well-established programs with evidence of sustainability
  - Formal elective at a foreign medical school with a visiting medical student program
  - Proposal reviewed and endorsed by formal Faculty mentor

**GLBH 2101**  
**International Health Elective**

- Evidence of sufficient interpreters or language competence
- Safe environment

***Note: If your country of choice appears on the U.S. State Department Travel Warning list with a safety warning above a Level 2 or CDC COVID Level 4, contact the UTSW International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) ASAP to submit an application. If the ITOC does not approve your travel, you will not be able to go.***

***Application Deadlines:***

**December 15:** for all spring rotations

**July 15:** for all fall and winter rotations

**April 15:** for summer rotations (Periods 1 & 2)

***Funding:***

The Office of Global Health will cover the cost of an **economy-class round-trip flight**. No other funding will be given, with the exception of Distinction in Global Health students. Funding will only be awarded to students who are enrolled for the current academic year. Students on an approved leave of absence are not eligible to receive a stipend. Should a student not complete the specified requirements or fulfill the approved activities, the stipend must be repaid in full.

***Logistics:***

- 1. Transportation:** Students must provide information in the application about the mode of transportation that will be used while travelling and in the host city.
- 2. Room and Board:** Students must provide detailed information in the application about housing and accommodation while abroad.

**UT Southwestern does not approve international Airbnb lodging for students.**

**Method of evaluation of students and requirements:**

Evaluation based on completion of pre and post-travel requirements listed above.

Grade is Pass/Fail.