

**ENRH 134**  
**Global Health Summer Research Elective**

**Course Title:** Global Health Summer Research Elective

**Course Number:** ENRH 134

**Department:** Office of Global Health

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

**Department Coordinator:** Mylene Assi

**Site:** International location of student interest.

**Periods Offered:** Summer

**Length:** 8 weeks (7 weeks permitted if enrolling in the 1-week Quality Improvement Boot Camp)

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

**Prerequisites:** *Completion of IRB training* (IRB training should be completed the spring semester prior to the rotation).

**Course Description:**

This is an intensive 7-8 week research elective where students are expected to complete a research project, from project idea to primary data collection and analysis, to a written manuscript. Students are not allowed to use a pre-existing database and must spend most (>70%) of their time focused on primary data collection on site.

Students will have a UTSW faculty mentor and an in-country mentor for the project. The UTSW faculty mentor will assist with site selection and the in-country mentor will help the student formulate research topic ideas that are relevant to the local population. If students have trouble finding a faculty mentor in the early planning stages, s/he should contact the Faculty Coordinator who will assist the student. We recommend students start this process at least 6 months prior to the elective start date.

Given the short duration of this elective, retrospective chart reviews are ideal. The student is expected to start primary data collection soon after arriving in country, so s/he will have to figure out the research project logistics *before* submitting the GHSAC travel application with research proposal. If any research issues arise in-country, the student must contact their UTSW mentor and the Office of Global Health immediately. **It is the student's responsibility to figure out what the ethics/IRB approval process is at the international site, submit evidence of approval and obtain UTSW IRB approval before traveling.**

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**Goals & Objectives:**

1. To develop critical thinking, analytical and problem solving skills necessary for dealing with global health challenges.
2. To advance knowledge of global health issues by learning how to conceptualize research questions, design a research study, interpret and present results.
3. To understand appropriate use, validity, and limitations of patient records and local health reports in the design of laboratory-based or clinical research experiences in a global health environment.
4. To gain insight into health care globally by conducting research on relevant disease burdens in an international site or underserved population.
5. Learn how to implement a research project in a different country ethically by creating a research proposal and getting approval from UTSW and in-country (if applicable) IRB or ethics committees.
6. To gain more understanding of health systems and services in low resource countries.
7. To learn systematic approaches to research implementation in low resource environments.

***Pre-Departure Requirements:***

- Interested students may submit a Letter of Intent to the Office of Global Health as soon as they begin to think about undertaking this elective. The Office accepts Letters of Intent as early as January of the project year.
- Identify a physician mentor (preceptor at international site) and UTSW faculty mentor who will supervise your elective experience and research. Exceptions for UTSW faculty mentor can be made depending on who the international site mentor is.
- Submit the [online application](#).
- Once approved, you will be required to complete a pre-travel orientation in person and/or on-line.
- **Provide IRB approval letters to the Office of Global Health Department Coordinator.**

***Required Reading(s):***

Preparing Data for Analysis Using Microsoft Excel

*Alan C. Elliott, Linda S. Hynan, Joan S. Reisch, Janet P. Smith*

Available on the course D2L page.

***Post-Travel Requirements:***

Upon returning, all students must complete the following items *within 3 days* of the official course end date (please check Campus Solutions):

1. Online experience review in the UT Southwestern Global Health Data System.
2. Final Summary of the research activity (10-page limit excluding references and figures).  
Criteria for Final Summary will be in journal submission format:
  - Section 1: Abstract: Background, Methods, Findings, Interpretation (360 words maximum)
  - Section 2: Introduction- Background and Significance:
    - Purpose of the research.
    - Why was this problem addressed?
    - How is the study significant/novel within the field of study

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- Why should reviewer find the study interesting?
  - Clearly state hypothesis or specific aims or objective.
  - Section 2: Methods
    - How was the research designed (retrospective chart review, prospective survey)
    - Describe the research setting. Define Inclusion & Exclusion criteria.
    - Describe the systematic investigation (survey, interview, data collection)
    - What techniques did you use to arrive at your major findings?
  - Section 3: Results & Major Findings:
    - Write your findings and analysis here. Create tables so readers can understand your results.
  - Section 4: Conclusions/Discussion:
    - What was discovered?
    - Are findings reliable, generalizable, and consistent with other reports?
    - Implications for the findings
    - Limitations to this investigation
    - Future steps/implications
3. Reflection essay:
- ❖ 2-3 pages; 1.5 spaced.
  - ❖ Mandatory Topics for Discussion:
    - Discuss what you learned from this global health elective that you could not have experienced without going abroad.
    - - How did this experience impact your educational experience and/or future career path?
  - ❖ Optional topics to incorporate in addition to the above:
    - 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?
  - ❖ Format: Word (.doc or .docx), double spaced, and 11 point Times New Roman font. ***Include 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"*** (example: Smith\_John\_Haiti\_02May2016.docx).
  - ❖ Well-written reflection essays may be featured by the Office of Global Health in the annual Reflection Essay Booklet.

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4. Submission of abstract to UTSW Medical Student Research Forum (MSRF) and either Unite for Sight conference, or the CUGH conference (exceptions must be approved by the course director). Students must notify the Office of Global Health of any abstract or journal submissions from their research in this elective.

***Application Process:***

To submit an application, visit the REDCap link: [Global Health Student Opportunities Application](#). Applications will be reviewed by Faculty Coordinator and the Global Health Student Advisory Committee.

*Note: Students may be asked to submit additional supporting documents to provide the reviewing Committee with all the necessary information.*

***Application Deadlines:***

- ***January 15:*** Show interest. Submit letter of Intent (optional but highly recommended)
- ***March 15:*** Application for Global Health Student Opportunities ***with*** the Research Proposal for the ENRH 134 Global Health Research Elective.
- *The Global Health Student Advisory Committee will review your application and determine final approval. The Office of Global Health will notify you after the determination has been made.*

**Assessment Methods:**

***Evaluations:***

- A Pass or Fail grade assigned based on completion of pre and post travel requirements and submission of a write up that is of publishable material for the scholarly work that was completed during the elective.
- Students will receive a Failing grade if:
  1. The post trip requirements are not received within 3 business days after the course end date.
  2. Professionalism issues during the rotation (i.e. No proof of IRB approval from the host country, if students were found to be traveling for leisure for a significant portion of the course, lack of communication with the Office of Global Health, not completing the research project)
  3. Manuscript is not of sufficient quality for the course.

**International Site Requirements:**

Check the U.S. State Department Travel list. If your country has a travel warning, you must submit an application to the UTSW Internal Oversight Committee (IOC). Students are not allowed to travel to any country that has a travel warning without UTSW approval.

**Funding:**

The Office of Global Health will cover the cost of an economy-class round-trip flight from Dallas to the international site. Students must not book flights without prior approval. All bookings must be made through Anthony Travel, the University's official travel agency. International flights must be booked at least 2 months prior to departure.

Additional funding is available to Distinction in Global Health students. For non-Distinction students, no other funding will be given.

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**Conditions** – 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. Should a student not complete the specified requirements or fulfill the approved activities, the funding must be repaid in full.