

Ethiopia International Rotation

Application deadline: August 1st
Rotation timeline: Month of November

Program Goals and Objectives

Overall Goal

To provide fourth year medical students with a consistent opportunity to participate in international rotations in a developing country to provide both unique educational exposure to indigenous diseases and to give back in service to an underserved region.

Program Objectives

- To expose students to a radically different and completely unique medical environment in which they can live, learn, and serve.
- To encourage students to gain knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of tropical diseases and other conditions commonly seen in international settings.
- Increase cultural awareness and sensitivity to the global healthcare environment through experience with various cultural groups.
- To give back to the community through a commitment to service, a community based research project, and a positive influence on local health development.
- To provide a safe, predictable, accessible experience to as many interested students as possible.

Educational Goals

- Introduction to community based health and development.
- Introduction to environmental health, including water and sanitation.
- Introduction to public health including immunizations and family planning.
- Valuable experience in tropical health and infectious disease.
- Valuable experience in nutrition, malnutrition, assessment, and treatment.
- Introduction to geriatrics, pediatrics, and OB/Gyn.

Social/Cultural Goals

- Introduction to cultural issues in international health.
- Introduction to complex humanitarian situations/circumstances.
- Exposure to immigrant health and travel medicine.

Learning Objectives

- Understand causes of international health problems, including delivery/supply.
- Describe international health systems
- Be able to diagnose and treat common tropical and parasitic diseases
- Develop skills for communicating in cross cultural settings.
- Design and complete a research project in an international health setting.
- Be able to utilize the literature in dealing with global health issues.

Guidelines for Ethiopia program:

STEP I – Pre-requisite Requirements

- Be in good academic standing and have signed approval from Advisory Dean.
- Have completed all required core clerkships (internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, family medicine, psychiatry/neurology).

STEP II – Application Requirements

- Complete International Health Elective application posted online at: http://www.ttuhsct.edu/som/curriculum/international_health_elective.aspx
- Submit curriculum vitae along with a personal statement describing interest in international medicine. Focus on past international health experiences, personal goals and objectives for participation in this program, and vision for future involvement in international health.
- Submit one or two letters of recommendation from faculty or other health professionals who can assess the applicant's clinical skills.

STEP III – Post Application Approval

- Complete Safety component (III) of International Elective Application.
- Gather information concerning any political problems or health hazards that may place the student at risk by consulting current State Department and Centers for Disease Control and report that information to the International Health Advisor at the student's campus.

Responsibility for Securing Preceptor's Evaluation

Students must have a clinical evaluation form completed by the person overseeing the clinical experience in the hospital in Ethiopia where the elective is conducted. The evaluation form must be returned to the Office of Student Affairs and Office of Curriculum **within one month** of return from the international medicine elective.

Funding

Funding will be the individual responsibility of the students taking part in the program. There are five \$1,500 scholarships available through TTUHSC SOM. Each year, one of these scholarships is reserved for a student going to Ethiopia. The deadline for applying for these scholarships is **March 20**. For more information, see the elective/scholarship application materials posted at

http://www.ttuhsoc.edu/som/curriculum/international_health_elective.aspx

Preparation

Reading:

- 1) "Where There is No Doctor" ~ David Werner (optional)
- 2) "Mountains Beyond Mountains" ~ Tracy Kidder (optional)

Curriculum:

- 1) The team must meet at least once to discuss the research project and develop a schedule for the four weeks. If possible team members should meet in person; however, this meeting may take place via conference call or healthnet as well.
- 2) Each team member will meet at least once with their local International Health Advisor to have their project and curriculum approved, as well as demonstrate adequate preparation for the trip.

Curriculum

Either:

- 1) 2-1-1 (weeks)
- 2) 2-2 (weeks)

Specialties:

- 1) Surgery (including sub-specialty)
- 2) Primary care/General practice/Internal Medicine
- 3) Rural rotation – General practice clinic

Curriculum:

- 1) **Patient log** – Consisting of any interesting diseases, case studies, surgical cases, rare tropical diseases etc encountered during the rotation. Should include as much detail as possible (e.g. Diagnosis, Labs, Treatments). May also include tallies of more common cases (e.g. HIV, Tuberculosis, Leishmaniasis).

2) **Procedures log** – Documentation of any procedures performed with signatures from the attending physician confirming the procedure.

3) **Research article journal** – Prior to departure, each student will choose four research articles (1 per week) to take to Ethiopia and read while there. They will pertain to infectious diseases or surgical procedures that will be encountered in-country that are rarely seen or done in the U.S. The student may use articles previously compiled and housed in a binder in the Office of Curriculum, but are encouraged to use available resources to find new articles pertaining to the Ethiopian experience and add these to the compilation of articles.

Research:

The student may choose to do a small research project of his/her design; write-up and present a case report to the faculty preceptor and other student(s); or produce a powerpoint presentation on a specific disease/condition encountered on the rotation and of interest to the student, and present this to the faculty preceptor, other student(s), faculty, or staff upon return. This project should be added to the Ethiopia resource compilation mentioned above.

Evaluation:

1. Research Article Journal – 20%
2. Attendance – 20%
3. Faculty/Preceptor Evaluations – 20%
4. Research/Case Presentation/Powerpoint Presentation – 20%
5. Competency Checks (History and Physical Exam Skills) – 20%
6. Patient/Procedure Log – Required

Follow up

Students will meet with their local International Health Advisor to discuss the experience and turn in the patient and procedures log books and a copy of the research article journal. A copy of the research article journal will also be given to Dr. Lynn Bickley (Office of Curriculum, Lubbock) to be filed in the Ethiopia binder for future years.