

Online International Electives Academic Year 2020-2021

Registration Guidelines

(Updated November 2020)

This document includes a list of the online international electives (OIEs) facilitated by the Office of International Medicine Programs (IMP) for the 2020-2021 academic year. Students can apply for funding through the *Leonard C. Akman, MD '43 Global Medicine Scholarship*. Students have the option to pursue virtual opportunities not included in the attached list. In those cases, students should submit a separate proposal in advance to the Course Director, Dr. Huda Ayas. Please contact Genna McKenna at gmckenna94@gwu.edu with any questions or concerns.

Global Health Scholarly Concentration (GHSC) students must complete four weeks of international elective credit (IDIS [349](#), [352](#), or [370](#)) before graduation in order to meet GHSC requirements.

Non-Global Health Students have the option to participate in either two-week or four-week online international electives. During AY 2020-2021, any non-GHSC student participating in a two-week virtual elective with IMP will register for IDIS 349.

Online International Electives (OIE) fall into two categories:

Option 1 – IDIS 352, 370: OIEs that meet the four-week requirement independently

Option 2 – IDIS 349: Two-week electives that can meet four-week elective requirements by either:

- a. Combining two (2) of the two-week (IDIS 349) OIEs, or
- b. Supplementing with a written assignment related to the OIE

To plan and register for your online elective(s):

Step 1 - Review the OIEs and notify Genna McKenna of your desired registration period and the one to three (1-3) OIEs you are considering ***no later than six weeks before your preferred start date.***

Step 2 – ***No later than four weeks before your start date,*** you should have decided on an OIE. If necessary, you should have also received confirmation or acceptance from the host organization or mentor (i.e. conference registration, research mentor confirmation, etc.)

Step 3 –*At this point (four weeks before start date)*, you should also email Dr. Ayas at hayas@gwu.edu, copying Genna McKenna, with the following information for final approval:

- Selected Online International Elective information
- Registration dates
- Organization or mentor confirmation (*if applicable*)

Step 4 - If you need to be added to IDIS 349, 352, or 370, or change your current registration, submit an Add/Drop Request Form to the Dean’s Office [here](#). Then, send a follow-up email to Genna McKenna, and she will confirm approval with the Dean’s Office and Registrar.

Deliverables: Students should submit deliverables two weeks after the last date they are registered in the course OR before May 5, 2021 (whichever date occurs first). GHSC students should submit via Blackboard for the Scholarly Concentration Programs under the assignment titled “GH 4th year Elective.” Non-GHSC students should submit via email to Dr. Ayas and copy Genna McKenna.

Deliverables will vary depending on the selected OIE. Participants in Option 1- IDIS 352 or 370 should submit the following:

- Certificate or Letter of Completion, **and**
- A one-page written evaluation from the supervising organization or mentor

Students seeking two weeks of IDIS 349 credit under Option 2 will submit one Letter or Certificate of Completion. Students registered for four weeks of IDIS 349 credit will submit:

- **Either one or two** Letters/Certificates of Completion, **and/or**
- The written assignment that corresponds with the virtual alternative. IMP will provide a grading rubric; papers and references must be in [APA format](#). Visit <https://guides.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/APA> for guidance on APA format.

Evaluation: Dr. Ayas will grade IDIS [349](#), [352](#), and [370](#) courses on the following scale: honors, high pass, pass, conditional, and fail. Dr. Ayas will evaluate students on the following criteria: 1) adherence to deadlines, 2) relevance to global health, 3) the approved OIE aligning with deliverables, and 4) content of the following:

- Letter(s) or Certificate(s) of Completion; and/or
- One-page written evaluation; or
- Written assignment (*if applicable*)

List of Online International Electives

Option 1: IDIS 352 or IDIS 370 (Four-Week Online International Electives)

The following online international electives meet the four-week GHSC elective requirement without students having to submit an additional written assignment or register for another online international elective.

Students choosing the following options should register for *IDIS 352: International Medical Systems* or *IDIS 370: International Translational Research*.

Child Family Health International (CFHI) – IDIS 352

[Virtual 4th year Global Health Electives](#)

Cost: \$495; use code “GW2021” to waive the \$45 application fee

Students will learn how communities are addressing their most pressing health challenges, including chronic disease, maternal-child health, infectious disease, and reproductive health, all while gaining insights into the public health realities of the region, reverse innovation, and interplays of international development and health. This is a full-time commitment that includes virtual synchronous sessions, small group project work, formal presentations, clinical reasoning case-based seminars, and self-paced asynchronous components

[Global Health Comparative Internship](#)

Cost: \$975; use code “GW2021” to waive the \$45 application fee

The virtual internship offers undergraduate, pre-health, and graduate-level participants a unique opportunity to “travel” to several countries in four weeks, to engage in deep learning around healthcare systems in five to ten countries. Through seminars and facilitated sessions with CFHI's wide network of global partners, interns will see how communities in Africa, Asia, and the Americas address their most pressing health challenges.

This internship will incorporate CFHI’s expertise in facilitated competency development and global health topics through live and self-guided trainings, workshops, and seminars to develop foundational skills for careers in Global Health, Public Health, and related fields. Additionally, interns will complete a project and presentation to support the ongoing work of one of our partners. All participants will receive a certificate of completion. Partner organizations are located in Bolivia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Mexico, and Uganda.

[Virtual Global Health Practicum](#)

Cost: \$975; use code “GW2021” to waive the \$45 application fee

The virtual practicum consists of 110-200 hours (depending on the university or institution) and must address at least three of the Global Health Education Competencies. CFHI identifies appropriate projects for applicants based on the needs and interests of our global partners. CFHI utilizes an Asset-Based Community Development approach, so all practicum projects are locally-led and build on existing strengths and resources, prioritizing sustainability and best practices for ethical engagement.

In addition to developing and sharpening global health capacities, trainees will build skills needed to effectively work across intercultural teams, as they will play a key role in keeping project timelines moving forward and ensuring milestones and deliverables are met. If you are interested, please submit your application on this page and send your resume or CV to students@cfhi.org, copying Genna McKenna at gmckenna94@gwu.edu.

CFHI is currently offering practica focused in the following countries, and new sites may be added:

- Bolivia - Intermediate Spanish or above required (will require a Spanish evaluation)
- Costa Rica - Intermediate Spanish or above recommended
- Ghana
- India
- Uganda

Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC) – IDIS 352 [Virtual Global Health Training](#)

Cost: Varies depending on program (approx. \$350 - \$750)

Learning modules include customized research articles and remote trainings to provide in-depth analysis of current challenges and initiatives within the select topics. Site connections include connection to FIMRC site operations and staff to gain an understanding of how access to healthcare within specific communities impacts the health of families, and how FIMRC responds to the barriers in unique ways. In addition, students will have access to professional mentors to help provide perspectives of real-life experiences working in global health.

Intern Abroad HQ – IDIS 352

[Social Work and NGO Support Internships - Tanzanian Community Center](#)

Cost: \$948 to \$1648 (100 - 200 hours max)

Social Work interns work under the supervision of local staff. Interns will have regular video conferences with the local team to help with planning and implementing strategies to assist vulnerable people. As such, interns will need to be available to speak with local representatives during daytime hours in Tanzania. Remote internships out of Tanzania are conducted in English.

Social work and NGO support interns learn from a qualified and experienced supervisor, and can be involved in the following:

- Assisting NGOs devoted to helping disadvantaged communities
- Writing reports about the experiences of disadvantaged people and the effectiveness of assistance
- Handling case management
- Helping to plan fundraising activities
- Providing administrative support to NGOs
- Producing social media content for NGOs
- Planning NGO strategies

- Preparing educational material

Psychology Remote Internship (Spain)

Note: The internship is conducted in Spanish, requiring that participants have an intermediate knowledge of Spanish.

Cost: \$948 to \$1648 (100 - 200 hours max)

Placements include a clinic as well as an online service, which offers self-guided psychological interventions, resources, and tools. The clinic specializes in psychological treatments for couples and families, while also providing services for forensic psychology, severe and chronic disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders, gambling, and non-toxic addictions. Virtual support and services are embraced by the practice, as online training and workshops are available, in addition to online patient consultation. Ongoing studies and research are focused on the use of virtual reality in clinical practice, including the specialty areas of mental health, neuropsychology, judicial intervention, physical therapy, speech therapy, and art therapy.

Remote interns who join a psychology internship based out of Spain can expect to assist with a variety of activities, including:

- Online consultations
- Research
- Contributions to online courses and workshops
- Organization of events and conferences
- Development of psychological content which can be utilized for virtual therapy
- Translation assistance
- Digital marketing and analysis of key performance indicators (KPIs) and statistics from marketing campaigns
- Support on the definition and implementation of marketing strategies
- Interns with IT/Computer Science experience additionally have scope to become involved with software development/app development, as it pertains to the Psychology placement that offers services via a virtual program.

Children’s National Hospital Global Health Initiative (GHI) – IDIS 370

Research Opportunity: Research project availability is dependent on student interests and four-week registration aligning with the host organization’s needs and ongoing projects.

<http://ghicn.org/>

Cost: n/a

Founded in 2016, GHI aims to fulfill Children’s National Hospital’s (CHI) core value of “caring for ALL children” by addressing the need for advanced and collaborative international pediatric health care. GHI provides a platform within CHI for concerted oversight of health education and research projects involving both experienced faculty and emerging leaders in global health. An overview of the many faculty and CHI staff working with the GHI and their ongoing research can be found here: <http://ghicn.org/ghi-leaders/>

Interested students should send their CV and an objective statement (one page) outlining your global health and research experiences and interests to Rachel Sarnacki (RSarnack@childrensnational.org), and Genna McKenna (gmckenna94@gwu.edu).

Operation Smile – IDIS 370

<https://www.operationsmile.org/>

Research Opportunity: Research project availability is dependent on student interests and registration aligning with the host organization's needs and ongoing projects.

Cost: TBD; Eight-week min commitment; Operation Smile Scholarships available

By mobilizing more than 5,000 highly-specialized volunteer medical professionals from 76 countries, Operation Smile provides free reconstructive surgery and associated services for children born with facial deformities as well as children in need of surgery due to injury or other maladies.

Operation Smile's research focus areas include epidemiology, genetics, surgical procedures, speech pathology, dentistry, anesthesiology and psychology. Essential research is being conducted within Operation Smile's Comprehensive Care Centers to investigate and understand the efficacy of various approaches and practices in the management and delivery of cleft treatment around the world. Find more information on current projects [here](#).

Interested students should send their CV and a brief cover letter/email to Jennifer McKendree (Jennifer.Krzewinski@operationismile.org), copying Genna McKenna (gmckenna94@gwu.edu).

The Bethony Lab, GW Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine (MITM) - IDIS 370

Research Opportunity: Research project availability is dependent on student interests and four-week registration aligning with the host organization's needs and ongoing projects.

Mentor: Jeffrey Bethony, MD, PhD

Cost: n/a

An exciting line of research in the department is the development of a human hookworm challenge model to test a vaccine against hookworm. Dr. Bethony and Dr. John Hawdon, together with Dr. David Diemert from the Department of Medicine (and former MITM member), developed the model at GW. This required obtaining an investigational new drug (IND) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the current good manufacturing practices (cGMP) of infective *Necator americanus* larvae and permission to infect human volunteers. A National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded U01 clinical trial is currently underway to test a hookworm vaccine candidate at GW. The group is planning to expand the research to test hookworms as therapy for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, including multiple sclerosis, IBD/Crohn's, among others.

Bethony laboratory also provides pre-clinical and clinical immunology support to GW's Vaccine Research Unit, specializing in support of phase 1, especially first-in-human, vaccine clinical trials, of investigational products for HIV, *Schistosoma mansoni*, and the human hookworm *Necator americanus*. Currently, the Clinical Immunology Laboratory

(CIL) is the central processing and repository for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI's) phase 1 trials for its line of germinal center stimulating HIV vaccines. These trials include cutting edge specimen collection methods developed and performed here at GW (e.g., ultrasound guided fine needle lymph node aspiration as a routine clinical trial endpoint). Dr. Bethony currently works with his collaborators in Brazil.

Finally, the Bethony laboratory also performs biospecimen science for the AIDS and Cancer Specimen Resource (ACSR) and AIDS Malignancy Consortium, which are both National Cancer Institute (NCI) sponsored collaborative grants. The lab works to develop methods for sampling from individuals with HIV/AIDS associated malignancies for use in biomarkers studies. This includes the development of liquid biopsies and other methods of next-generation biomarker methods.

Interested students should send their CV and a brief cover letter/email to Dr. Bethony (jbethony@gwu.edu), copying Genna McKenna (gmckenna94@gwu.edu).

Virtual Research Training Program (VRTP) in Precision Medicine - IDIS 370

Course Director: Fernando Vidal-Vanaclocha, MD, PhD; Research Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine; Research Director, Office of International Medicine Programs

Dates: Weeks 32-35 (February 1-28, 2021)

Cost: n/a

The course provides students with a virtual learning environment for getting trained on key research concepts and methods serving Precision Medicine development and clinical adoption. The main emphasis will be on molecular profiling and clinical analytics procedures, two essential components of Precision Medicine practice.

Molecular and genomic research on patients with immune-inflammatory, endocrine-metabolic, neoplastic and neurodegenerative disorders will be used as representative examples for the virtual research training. Students will apply bioinformatics and biostatistical methods for the clinical validation of multi-analytic gene and protein assays with AI-algorithms and computational predictions.

The program is divided into two parts. The first half of the course provides an overview on Principles of Precision Medicine and its recent development and clinical implementation. Focusing on laboratory and analytical technologies, ethical, economic, and operational issues around how molecular biomarkers, genomic data, aggregated clinical data, and patient-reported data refining diagnosis and personalized treatment.

The second half of the course is focused on Precision Medicine Practice with the support of interactive simulation. The program will take advantage of in silico analyses and computer simulation models with algorithmic analyses (Precision Medicine Interactive Simulation, PMIS™). Students will complete virtual research training with clinical and genomic/proteomic dataset from actual patients in IRB approved international clinical projects.

Option 2: IDIS 349 (Two-Week Online International Electives)

Non-GHSC students seeking two weeks of IDIS 349 credit will only submit a Certificate/Letter of Completion from the online elective host organization or mentor to receive a grade.

MSIV Global Health students must submit a supplemental written assignment to receive four weeks of IDIS 349 credit OR register for two 2-week online international electives.

Written assignments are specific to the chosen virtual experience. To satisfy four weeks of international elective credit, students selecting an “Option 2” will submit the following to receive a grade:

1. Certificate(s) or Letter(s) of Completion from the host organization or mentor
 - a. If you participate in two IDIS 349 online international electives, you will submit two certificates or letters.
2. Written assignment corresponding with the chosen online international elective

Global Health Initiative at Children’s National

[Introduction to Global Child Health Course](#)

Dates: Spring 2021 (specific dates TBD)

Cost: Small fee to participate in in-person SUGAR (Simulation Use for Global Away Rotations) modules at CNH on the last day of each course. Contact Genna McKenna for more information.

The Introduction to Global Child Health Course is offered biannually. Sponsored by the CNH Pediatric Residency Program and GHI, it is intended for pediatric residents but is also open to all CNH and non-CNH fellows, faculty, nurses, staff, and students. The course is organized around issues central to global health topics and principles, and includes a dynamic line-up of presentations and speakers from our CNH GHI leaders and local entities such as the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Save the Children, John Snow, Inc. (JSI), Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, and Georgetown University.

During the course, participants examine global health issues including health care delivery, disease burden, and resource allocation; recognize, diagnose, and manage common illnesses and tropical diseases seen outside the United States; refine clinical judgment and diagnostic skills necessary in lower resource settings through case-based discussion and simulation; and, discuss principles of bioethics.

Written Assignment for four-week elective (or register for a second 2-week online international elective): Analyze a Global Child Health clinical case study of your choice (e.g., malnutrition, HIV/AIDs, TB, etc.). Consider the variables of available resources, interventions, implications, and limitations on how the clinical problem can be addressed, given those variables. Propose the most effective solution based on your assessment. Be sure to support your analysis using scholarly evidence.

Case studies should be 7-9 pages in length and include the following sections: 1) Title Page, 2) Introduction, 3) Background, 4) Identified Problem & Assessment, 5) Diagnosis & Proposed Solution, 6) Etiology, 7) Treatment Recommendations, 8) Conclusion, 9) References.

Khon Kaen University (Thailand) - International Challenge of Emergency Medicine

<https://www.kkuicem.com/>

Dates: December 5 – 13, 2020

Cost: \$100 (per team; each team should consist of three students)

The Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University's International Challenge on Emergency Medicine (KKU ICEM) will be entirely virtual this year from December 5th to December 13th, 2020. Each medical school can send up to two representative teams, each team consists of three medical students to participate in the competition.

The main theme of this year's challenge is common emergency problems, which brings a great opportunity for students to refresh their emergency medical knowledge in the current times of COVID-19 where more steps and protective equipment are required to prevent spread of the virus. In addition to academic challenges, students will also get to share and explore international cultural experiences through fun activities and integrate bonds with worldwide medical students.

Written Assignment for four-week elective (or register for a 2nd two-week online international elective): Analyze a COVID-19 clinical case study that either takes place outside of the US or involves a patient in the US that has recently traveled internationally. Consider the variables of available resources, interventions, rapidly evolving clinical guidelines for COVID-19, implications, and limitations on how the clinical problem can be addressed given those variables. Propose the most effective solution based on your assessment. Be sure to support your analysis using scholarly evidence.

Case studies should be 7-9 pages in length and include the following sections 1) Title Page, 2) Introduction, 3) Background, 4) Identified Problem & Assessment, 5) Diagnosis & Proposed Solution, 6) Etiology, 7) Treatment Recommendations, 8) Conclusion, 9) References.

Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH)

[12th Annual CUGH Conference: Addressing Critical Gaps in Global Health and Development](#)

Dates: March 11 – 14, 2021

Cost: If purchased before January 15, 2021 - \$170; \$210 if purchased after that date
CUGH invites all persons wishing to report original research, innovative projects or novel programs related to global health to submit abstracts to be considered for presentation. All abstract presentations will be made in ePoster formats. [Abstract Submission Deadline: October 23, 2020 11:59 pm ET](#)

View the [draft agenda here](#). Seven Major Tracks and Subthemes:

- Addressing the Social Determinants of Health
- COVID-19, Emerging Infectious Disease, and other Communicable Diseases

- Planetary Health, One Health, Environmental Health, Climate Change and Pollution
- Strengthening Health Systems, Public Health, Primary and Surgical Care
- Translation and Implementation Science, High Impact Development Initiatives, Bridging Research to Policy, Reforming Academia
- Politics, Law, Corruption, Human Rights, Governance, Diplomacy, Strengthening Public Institutions

Written Assignment for four-week elective (or register for a 2nd two-week online international elective): Analyze a global health issue of your choice to identify and investigate a problem (e.g. global surgery, global health research ethics, or maternal and child health). Examine alternative solutions to that problem. Consider the variables of available resources, interventions, implications, and limitations on how the problem can be addressed given those variables. Propose the most effective solution based on your assessment. Be sure to support your analysis using scholarly evidence.

Papers should be 6-8 pages in length and include the following required components. 1) Title Page, 2) Introduction, 3) Background, 4) Identified Problem, 5) Proposed Solution, 6) Implication and Limitations 7) Conclusion, 8) References.

Unite for Sight

[Global Health and Innovation Conference](#)

Dates: April 8 – 11, 2021

Cost: \$100 ([Reduced student rate](#))

The Global Health and Innovation Conference, typically held annually at Yale University, is the world's largest and leading global health conference as well as the largest social entrepreneurship conference with 2,000 professionals and students from all 50 states and more than 55 countries. This must-attend, thought-leading conference convenes leaders, changemakers, professionals, and students from all sectors of global health, international development, and social entrepreneurship. View the [confirmed speakers here](#).

Written Assignment for four-week elective (or register for a 2nd two-week online international elective): Identify emerging technology that can be used in global healthcare. Discuss key challenges in integrating technologies with the goal of improving global health outcomes. Think about the value of global collaboration, especially when it comes to controlling communicable diseases (e.g., developing global vaccine stockpiles). Think about applications that support telemedicine and the value of precision healthcare in real-time. Be sure to support your analysis using scholarly evidence.

Papers should be 6-8 pages in length and include the following: 1) Description of technology, 2) Healthcare need of technology or application to combat common global healthcare issues, 3) Possible areas of innovation in global health 4) Contribution to global healthcare, 5) References.

[Unite for Sight Online Certificates](#) (choose one)

Cost: \$100 (per certificate)

- The Certificate in [Global Health](#) is designed for those interested in learning about the fundamentals of quality global health delivery. Participants gain a comprehensive understanding about best practices in global health and the complexities of global health delivery. While gaining essential practical skills in global health delivery, participants learn about interpersonal communication in the health setting, metrics, and how to deliver quality healthcare programs. Participants develop the capacity to evaluate, implement, support, and design global health delivery programs.
- The Certificate in [Global Health Research](#) is essential for anyone interested in or involved with public health research. The certificate equips students and professionals with analytical skills and important research strategies that ensure quality design and implementation of a field-based research study. Participants learn how to design and implement a quality global health-focused research study, and there is a considerable focus on how to avoid common pitfalls in public health research. The course material also explores the important ethical issues surrounding global health research.
- The Certificate for [Community Eye Health](#) is designed for those interested or involved with eye care delivery programs. Participants learn about best practices in global health and community eye health. The course material explores medication management, measuring outcomes, metrics, and quality healthcare delivery.
- The Certificate in [Surgery and Global Health](#) is designed to teach participants about the global health challenges and topics related to surgery. Participants learn about surgery ethics, emergency care, how to cope with a lack of surgical resources, and more.

Written Assignment for four-week elective (or register for a 2nd two-week online international elective): Analyze a global health issue of your choice to identify and investigate a problem (e.g. global surgery, global health research ethics, or maternal and child health). Examine alternative solutions to that problem. Consider the variables of available resources, interventions, implications, and limitations on how the problem can be addressed, given those variables. Propose the most effective solution based on your assessment. Be sure to support your analysis using scholarly evidence.

Papers should be 6-8 pages in length and include the following required components. 1) Title Page, 2) Introduction, 3) Background, 4) Identified Problem, 5) Proposed Solution, 6) Implication and Limitations 7) Conclusion, 8) References.

Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC)

[Virtual Global Health Volunteer Experience](#)

Cost: \$500 for one-week program

Virtual Global Health Volunteer Experience replicates FIMRC's on-site Global Health Volunteer Program. On a flexible schedule, you will gain an understanding of the role limited access to healthcare plays in the health of a community, and how FIMRC meets those challenges to help improve the health of communities in low-resource settings.

Through readings, clinical exposure, videos from site staff, and other engaging activities you will feel as though you have spent one week visiting all FIMRC sites. Participants are able to take the course at their own pace through the virtual modifications. You may choose between the following FIMRC sites:

- Project Alajuelita, Costa Rica
- Project Restauración, Dominican Republic
- Project Anconcito, Ecuador
- Project Kodaikanal, India
- Project Huancayo, Peru
- Project La Merced, Peru
- Project Cavite, Philippines
- Project Bududa, Uganda

Written Assignment for four-week elective (or register for a 2nd two-week online international elective): Analyze a Global Child Health clinical case study of your choice (e.g., malnutrition, HIV/AIDs, TB, etc.). Consider the variables of available resources, interventions, implications, and limitations on how the clinical problem can be addressed, given those variables. Propose the most effective solution based on your assessment. Be sure to support your analysis using scholarly evidence.

Case studies should be 7-9 pages in length and include the following sections 1) Title Page, 2) Introduction, 3) Background, 4) Identified Problem & Assessment, 5) Diagnosis & Proposed Solution, 6) Etiology, 7) Treatment Recommendations, 8) Conclusion, 9) References.

----- END ---