



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**Responsible University Officials:**

Associate Dean for International Medicine

**Responsible Office:** Office of  
International Medicine Programs

**Most Recent Revision:** 3-10-16

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRE-CLINICAL INTERNATIONAL SUMMER  
EXPERIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVES**

## **Policy Statement**

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### **I. Pre-Clinical International Summer Experiences**

- A. All Global Scholarly Concentration students must participate in an International Experiential Opportunity in the summer following their first year.
- B. All students participating in an international experiential opportunity, regardless of their scholarly concentration, must submit a project proposal including scope of work, a timeline, objectives/goals, and the organization/on-site mentor with which the student will be working, including their contact information. The project must be approved by the Associate Dean for International Medicine prior to student departure from the U.S. in order for the student to travel.
- C. Students participating in the Global Health Scholarly Concentration must spend 8 weeks abroad completing the project. If the student has a compelling reason why he/she cannot complete the full 8 weeks abroad, a letter of justification must be submitted to the Scholarly Concentration director. If approved, the project still must be 8 weeks in length and a portion of that time must be spent abroad. Time spent in the U.S. must be utilized in global health-related activities directly related to the abroad portion of the internship. Students participating in other scholarly concentrations can spend less than 8 weeks abroad as long as the project has been approved by their Scholarly Concentration Director.
- D. After project completion, students are required to submit a 4-6 page paper to include the student's project scope, the role the student played in the project, any unexpected outcomes, and reflections on the experience.

### **II. Clinical Electives**

*Students must complete the required third year core clerkships in order to participate in an international elective.*

- A. All medical students participating in international electives, regardless of whether they are in the Global Health Scholarly Concentration, must register for IDIS 352 and apply through the International Medicine Programs (IMP) office. IDIS 352 must be at least four (4) weeks in duration in order to obtain credit.
- B. All students participating in a one- to two-week medical mission for elective credit must register for IDIS 349 and apply through the IMP office.
- C. Students' grades for IDIS 349 and 352 will be issued by the course director. The grade will be a combination of the student's elective evaluation (completed by in country mentor) and the student's 64 page reflection paper completed after the elective (to be assessed by the course director). All students will hand in elective evaluations and reflection papers to the IMP office. Copies of documents will be submitted to the Office of the Dean to enter the student's final grade for the elective.
- D. Students who go abroad without properly registering for IDIS 349 or 352 or without first receiving approval from the IMP office will not receive credit for their elective.

## **Reason for Policy/Purpose**

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To inform students, advisors, and faculty of requirement related to international experiences

## **Who Needs to Know this Policy**

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All students, faculty, and staff of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences

## **Contact**

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Associate Dean for International Medicine  
Office of International Medicine Programs  
2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20037  
202-994-2796

## **Who Approved this Policy**

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Jeffrey Akman, MD, Vice President for Health Affairs,  
Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Administrative Medicine, and  
Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

*This policy was approved 7/2018*