



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Officials:

Associate Dean for International
Medicine

Responsible Office: Office of
International Medicine Programs

Most Recent Revision: 12/2022

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

Policy Statement

I. Pre-Clinical International Summer Experiences

- A. All Global Health 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 must still 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 project. 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. Before travel, all students must attend an in-person “Personal Safety and Security While Abroad” mandatory workshop which will be hosted by IMP each spring. All students traveling for summer experiences will also be required to register the details of their travel with the university via the GW Passport system, and register with GW’s international insurance provider. Instructions will be provided to the student by IMP.
- E. After project completion, all 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.
- F. Upon return to campus, all students who participated in an international summer experience are required to attend an in-person mandatory reflection forum which will be facilitated by IMP and a GW faculty member every fall.

II. Clinical Electives

Students must complete the required third-year core clerkships to be eligible for 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 349, 352 or 370 depending on the primary activities while abroad and apply through the International Medicine Programs (IMP) office. The minimum number of weeks a student can be registered in an international elective is two (2) and maximum is eight (8) weeks.
 - Students participating in medical or surgical missions will register for *IDIS 349: International Medical and Surgical Missions*
 - Students rotating through a clinical department at an academic medical center while abroad will register for *IDIS 352: International Medical Systems*
 - Students conducting or supporting international research while abroad will register for *IDIS 370: International Translational Research*
 - Students in the Global Health Scholarly Concentration must be registered for at least four-weeks to fulfill the Global Health elective requirement
- B. To register for any of the international elective courses (IDIS 349, 352, or 370), students must submit a signed “[Permission to Take Off-Campus Electives](#)” form to the Dean’s Office. When received by the Dean’s Office prior to the start date of the elective, credit will be registered and GW malpractice insurance will be in effect.
- C. Before travel, all students must attend an in-person “Personal Safety and Security While Abroad” mandatory workshop which will be hosted by IMP each spring. If the student cannot attend the in-person workshop, a recording will be

provided. All students traveling for international electives will also be required to register the details of their travel with the university via the GW Passport system, and register with GW's international insurance provider. Instructions will be provided to the student by IMP.

- D. Students' grades for IDIS 349, 352, and 370 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 4-6-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 Dean's office to enter the student's final grade for the elective.
- E. Students who go abroad without properly registering for IDIS 349, 352, or 370 without first receiving approval from the IMP office will not receive credit for their elective.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

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

Who Needs to Know This Policy

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

Contact

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Who Approved This Policy

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