Benefits of International Experience

By studying abroad, you can learn first-hand from other countries’ approaches to addressing issues of public health. An international experience can help you develop intercultural skills critical for working with diverse populations abroad and domestically. Engage with international faculty, NGOs, foreign governments, and other grassroots organizations to develop a multi-faceted understanding of public health within the context of socio-economic development. Many opportunities exist to participate in clinical observations, conduct research, or intern with a local organization, allowing you to gain practical experience in an international setting and

Student Testimonial

“As a pre-med student, the reason I chose to major in Spanish and Global Public Health, instead of Chemistry or Biology, is because I am interested in working with underserved groups such as the rapidly growing Hispanic population in the U.S. The UVA Hispanic Studies Program was perfect for my interests. I was able to enroll in a Comparative Healthcare Systems course as well as Spanish for Healthcare Professionals. I also participated in two January term programs. Study abroad really showed me how dynamic yet interdependent our world is. In terms of medicine and health, countries can no longer be isolated from health risks. Therefore, the Global Public Health track is well-suited to identify methods to both protect and enhance a community’s health.”

Academic and Timing Considerations

Students in the Global Public Health track of the Global Studies major can study abroad in their 3rd year, or you may study abroad in your 2nd year before being admitted to major. You must be on-Grounds to complete the 4th year capstone. Students may use up to 15 credits from study abroad towards their GPH major. All courses must be pre-approved by Prof. Ruth Bernheim, the GPH director, in consultation with Tracey Brookman, Director of Enrollment and Faculty Committee. For programs with transfer credit, you can find the transfer credit pre-approval form in your study abroad application. When participating on a program that grants direct credit, you should still confirm with Prof. Bernheim, prior to participating, that the courses will count toward your major. If you think you want to use coursework or research from your education abroad experience for your capstone project, you should also speak with Prof. Bernheim prior to going abroad or as soon as you know you wish to do so. If you have a second major, you need to consult with that department regarding course approvals.

The International Studies Office and the GPH faculty recommend planning early to study abroad to ensure your international experience integrates well into your on-Grounds curriculum. Programs and scholarships may have early deadlines, so research your options well in advance.
International Opportunities in Global Public Health

This list is a starting point; you are not limited to these options.

Africa
- Ghana, CIEE: Arts and Sciences in Legon*
- Senegal, University of Minnesota, International Development Studies§

South Africa, SIT: Community Health and Social Policy§

South Africa, UVA in South Africa: Public Health Science§

Asia
- India, Alliance for Global Education: Contemporary India§
- Singapore, UVA Exchange: National University of Singapore
- Vietnam, CET: Public Health & Service Learning in Ho Chi Minh City§

Europe
- Denmark, DIS: Public Health
- England, University College London
- Spain, UVA in Valencia*
- Sweden, UVA Exchange: Lund University

Latin America
- Brazil, SIT: Public Health, Race, and Human Rights

Chile, IES: Health Studies
Chile, SIT: Public Health, Traditional Medicine, and Community Empowerment§
Dominican Republic, UVA in the Dominican Republic: Public Health Sciences
Ecuador, University of Minnesota, International Development Studies§
Guatemala, UVA in Guatemala: Engineering Public Health

North America
- St. Kitts and Nevis, UVA in St. Kitts and Nevis: Public Health Sciences

Oceania
- Australia, UVA Exchange: University of Queensland
- Australia, IFSA-Butler: Griffith University
- Australia, TEAN: Queensland University of Technology
- New Zealand, UVA Exchange: University of Auckland

*Internship available
§Fieldwork/field study available