



Proposed Guidelines for educationally and ethically sound Global Health Electives

in Post-Graduate Medical Education at the University of Toronto

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Global Health electives during post-graduate training can significantly contribute to resident learning and professional development across all CanMEDs domains. Among other benefits, they expose residents to different cultures, populations, diseases, treatments, health systems, research opportunities and professional roles. However, they may also expose residents to potentially dangerous and ethically problematic situations. The purpose of these guidelines is to enhance the educational value of global health resident experiences, while mitigating the potential harms to the resident and others. Careful and comprehensive pre-departure training and planning are essential to ensure a positive global health elective and the PGME office is committed to supporting residents in accessing the appropriate resources.

This document recognizes that the PGME learner is only one stakeholder in any global health elective experience. The needs of, and the impact on, the community, individual patients, health care workers, health systems and others must be taken into consideration. Cultivating relationships and partnerships based on mutual respect and shared goals, between the University of Toronto and global health elective sites is the preferred approach to global health medical education.

Global Health activities may involve to research, education or practice outside of Canada, but global health may also refer to involvement and engagement with marginalized or vulnerable individuals and populations within Canada. **These guidelines currently apply to all international global health activities. Domestic global health activities involving vulnerable and/or marginalized populations, such as aboriginal communities, are not currently covered by this guideline document. However, residents are encouraged to use these guidelines and other PGME global health resources to ensure their own medical and cultural competency, and the educational integrity of all global health activities.**

These guidelines were developed by the Global Health Education Subcommittee (GHESC) of the Post-Graduate Medical Education Advisory Committee (PGMEAC) in consultation with individuals and groups within and outside of the University of Toronto. They are meant to support, not replace, departmental guidelines and policies, where they exist.

Registration and Logistics:

1. Residents must register with the PGME office by completing the PGME Global Health Electives application form. Submission of all required documentation may be completed well in advance of their anticipated global health elective. A minimum of 12 weeks is usually needed in order to complete required pre-departure training and planning.
2. Residents must provide itinerary, logistics and contact information as requested on application form. **If any details regarding the elective (location, date, supervision etc...) change prior to or during the global health elective, residents are required to inform the PGME Office of these changes as soon as possible.**
3. Residents are required to register with the appropriate licensing body and/or university at the elective site. Alternatively, they may provide documentation from their local supervisor or institution indicating that they have permission to undertake the specific activities they have planned (eg: research, observership, clinical work, teaching etc...).
4. Residents are responsible for all additional costs associated with a global health elective. They are encouraged to develop an estimated budget and to seek out variety of sources for funding.

5. Residents are required to obtain approval from their program director for any global health elective activity. In some programs this requires application and discussion with a global health committee or global health lead within the department.

Educational Integrity and Supervision:

6. Residents are required to have both a University of Toronto faculty member supervisor (Toronto-based supervisor) as well as a supervisor at the global health elective site (on-site supervisor). Both supervisors are required to complete an assessment of resident performance after the elective in order for the resident to receive credit for the elective/rotation.
7. Residents must provide PGME and their Toronto-based supervisor with information and documentation supporting the selection of the onsite supervisor who will be directly supervising the elective. The Toronto-based supervisor is responsible for vetting and approving the onsite supervisor to ensure they have the skills, knowledge and support to supervise and assess the planned elective activities at the resident's training level.
8. Global health electives must meet the same standards for educational objectives, assessment and evaluation as Toronto-based electives. Learning objectives should be developed in collaboration with, and reviewed by, both Toronto-based and onsite supervisors.
9. Residents must complete the post-return elective evaluation within 2 weeks of returning to Toronto.

Ethics:

10. While engaged in global health electives, residents are expected to comply with all relevant Faculty of Medicine and PGME policies, including Professionalism and Ethics provisions.
11. Research electives require appropriate ethics approval from a recognized research ethics board. If the principal investigator is UofT faculty, both Toronto and local site research ethics approval is necessary. Tricouncil Policy Statement and University of Toronto research ethics policies apply.
12. Practice, research and educational activities must contribute to local needs. Residents must demonstrate due diligence in assessing or planning to assess and meet local site needs before commencing their elective. This may include a letter from a supervisor, research or other evidence.

Health and Safety:

13. Residents must comply with departmental and university policies regarding global health electives and activities.
14. Residents are encouraged to visit the University of Toronto Safety Abroad website and be aware of the DFAIT travel advisories that apply to their destination.
15. All resident must have health insurance appropriate for the location and type of elective. This may include medical evacuation insurance.
16. All residents must ensure that they have the required vaccines and take other precautions (mosquito avoidance, TD meds, food precautions) to safeguard their health. It is strongly recommended that they seek a travel medicine consult well before commencing an elective.

Pre-Departure Preparation and Post-Travel Debriefing

17. All residents must complete an approved pre-departure training program before commencing their global health elective. Approved pre-departure training may include programs run by the resident's department (eg:DFCM), program or project-specific programs (eg:TAAAC) or PGME provided pre-departure training program/sessions (eg: GHEI Module 6C).
18. Pre-departure preparation must include review of the educational infrastructure, health care and general resources at the global health site, as well as local epidemiology, demographics, culture, health care and health systems.
19. Residents should seek out additional skills and knowledge that may be necessary to function as a health care practitioner, researcher or educator at the global health site.