Master of Public Health Field Experience – Summer 2015
IAP Academic Notes

This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in partnership with the Master of Public Health Program. Throughout the course of your study abroad experience you will be communicating with both IAP and your host institution or organization. It is essential that you pay close attention to all information provided to you from both organizations. This IAP Program Handbook supplements information you receive from your host institution or organization as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Your host institution or organization handles the program’s day-to-day operations. Generally, questions about aspects of your program abroad should be directed to your host institution or organization (e.g. housing information, program facilities abroad, extracurricular activities offered as part of the program, etc.). Questions relating to your relationship with UW-Madison or academics should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.).

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Contact Information

UW-Madison Information
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329 Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

For Program Advising & Grades:
Erica Haas-Gallo
IAP Study Abroad Advisor
Tel: 608-261-1020
haasgallo@studyabroad.wisc.edu

For Enrollment Issues:
Katie Robinson
IAP Enrollment Specialist Advisor
(608) 262-9684
robinson3@studyabroad.wisc.edu

For Financial Matters:
Judy Humphrey
IAP Financial Specialist
Tel: 608-262-6785
jhumphrey@studyabroad.wisc.edu

Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.
In-country emergency contact information has been furnished by the student participating on the program through the Worldwide Questionnaire.
Embassy Registration
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. Register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

Preparation Before Leaving
Refer to the Pre-Departure Checklist on pages four and five of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for essential information.

Immigration Documents

Passport
A passport is needed to travel to Uganda, Mexico, and Guatemala and to obtain your student visa if necessary. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/passport). If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Visa
Please consult the embassy of the host country.

Travel and Arrival Information
Students will receive information from their host university or institution regarding program dates, orientation, housing options, etc. Please read all information received from your host university or institution very carefully and abide by all deadlines.

The Academic Program

General Information
The International Field Experience is an optional component for all students in the Master of Public Health Program. The international field experience consists of a 400 hour, six-credit experience that provides students with practical experience in a public health setting and requires them to apply and integrate the skills and knowledge learned during their graduate study. It also provides students with a rich opportunity to work with international agencies that address significant public health problems. MPH students participate in a field experience following the completion of majority of coursework. Students will summarize what they have learned in the field experience as part of the capstone project.

Course Information
MPH students are required to register for a total of 6 credits of field experience and complete at least 400 hours of field work to meet the requirements of the MPH program.

Credits
Students will earn 6-credits of PHS 788 after successful completion of the international field experience. You will be registered by IAP for a placeholder class for the summer. Upon your return, and IAP’s receipt of your grade, the placeholder will be replaced with PHS 788.
Grades
The international field experience is graded on the standard university grading scale. Student grades are based on the following:
- Preceptor’s Evaluation of the Student Experience = 60%
- Self-Reflections = 20%
- Participation in On-line discussions = 10%
- Summary Report = 10%

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit
Participants are not allowed to take this course for pass/fail credit.

Preceptor
You will have a preceptor as outlined by your Field Learning Agreement submitted to your MPH coordinator. Please contact your IAP advisor prior to departure to discuss compensation to your preceptor: haasgallo@studyabroad.wisc.edu.

Living Abroad
Educate yourself about your host country. Read the Preparing to Live in Another Culture section of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook. Consult the following resources as well as travel books and other materials in the Study Abroad Resource Center (106 Red Gym). It is also helpful to consult others who have experience in your host country. Remember- it won't be possible to prepare yourself completely. There will be situations you will not have anticipated and your flexibility will determine in great part the kind of experience you will have while abroad.

Housing
Housing will vary by location. Students are responsible for finding their own housing.

Safety
Crimes such as pick pocketing, purse snatching, and thefts from hotels and parked vehicles are common around the world. Pick pocketing and the theft of purses and bags is common on public transportation as well. The US Embassy states that American citizens visiting many countries are advised not to accept food or drink offered from a stranger, even a child, because such food may contain narcotics used to incapacitate a victim and facilitate a robbery.

To reduce the risk of crime keep belongings close, be aware of surroundings, and never walk alone at night.

Health
All students should visit a travel health clinic to obtain all necessary immunizations and prophylactic medication at least one month prior to travel. Students should consult the Center for Disease Control and their physician to determine vaccinations and/or other health precautions they need to take after acceptance to the program.

Students are encouraged to drink large quantities of water and to bring oral rehydration packets to many countries. Past students also recommend bringing snacks. Past students have reported that it may be difficult to find certain medication while outside of the United States. They have suggested bringing any medication that may be needed such as general over the counter medications, prescription medications, and any other medications used. Past students have noted that it is particularly hard to obtain medications for rashes, urinary tract infections, and yeast infections and have suggested students bringing these if students are susceptible to these conditions.
Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control at http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx.

Communication
When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number, or dial + area code and the number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online: www.howtocallabroad.com. Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

Websites of Interest
- U.S. State Department Students Abroad http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/
- U.S. State Department http://travel.state.gov
- Center for Disease Control http://www.cdc.gov/travel/
- Current exchange rates http://www.oanda.com
- Lonely Planet http://www.lonelyplanet.com
- Journey Woman http://www.journeywoman.com