Checklist for International Health Experiences for Clinical Students
5/23/14

1. Visit the College of Human Medicine’s Global Health webpage for information on college-sponsored programs, scholarships and websites of other organizations that offer international programs for medical students. This is not an endorsement for other programs, rather a listing of sites for programs other medical students have used.

2. The MSU College of Human Medicine policy is that students must complete their required six clerkships (each eight weeks in length) and be in their fourth year before they can take any electives. A year-long experience abroad is best after the third year.

   • After you have found an international clinical elective or clinical research, discuss this opportunity with your community administrator. Your community administrator will let you know if this is an acceptable off-campus experience.

   • An off-campus clerkship requires a program description, dates and a letter from the international site stating that you have been approved for the elective.

3. Submit your letter of approval from the international site which includes the clerkship dates and a brief program description to your community administrator. This information will be attached to the Inter-Campus/Off-Campus Clerkship Request Form and will be sent to the appropriate department for approval. If approved, the department will forward the information to the College of Human Medicine Records Officer who will return the information to the appropriate community administrator.

4. Clinical students must apply for study abroad at least six weeks before departure through the MSU Office of Study Abroad (OSA). To do this, contact Cindy Chalou, Assistant Director, OSA to request that she set up a “program” for you on the OSA online application. She will advise you on how to set up a program request. You will be directed to MSU’s Study Abroad website. You must supply firm arrival and departure dates, city/country and indicate your community administrator for approval for evaluation for the college. Please provide a cost estimate if you wish to request financial aid (OSA sends your request to the Office of Financial Aid.) OSA will charge a $100 fee for College of Human Medicine required evacuation/repatriation and extra health insurance through HTH.

   • If you plan your study experience in a country for which the U.S. State Department has issued a travel warning, please follow the steps outlined by the Office of Study Abroad. OSA must approve your travel.

   • OSA scholarships for medical students only: OSA has some money for medical student scholarships based on need. Follow directions to apply and note deadlines. No essay is required.

5. You will need a valid passport and might need a visa to enter a country. Most countries require that your passport be valid for the next six months when you enter the country. You should apply for both
passport and visa months in advance. Check your post office for passport applications. See OSA’s guide to obtaining a passport and visit the State Department for visa information.

6. At least two months before you travel, we recommend that you visit the MSU Travel Clinic at Olin Health Center or your choice of physician for advice on immunizations and preventive medications, if they are needed. MSU Office of Study Abroad policy states if immunizations or medications are appropriate, they recommend, but do not require, you get these before your departure. In some cases, you need immunizations to travel in certain countries. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (517) 353-3161 or visit the MSU Travel Clinic website. Be prepared to bring your immunization record with you to the clinic. Additional resources available at World Health Organization.

7. From your application, OSA will have emergency contact number(s) for you and family contacts in the U.S. should an emergency arise in the country abroad. For all students on independent study credit or non-credit service-learning, if an emergency occurs, call COLLECT the MSU Emergency Assistance line at (517) 353-3784. This number can be accessed worldwide at all times. Emergencies are defined as serious threats to safety, security or health. Your evacuation/repatriation insurance card will also provide numbers to call.

8. The College of Human Medicine strongly recommends that you prepare for your global health study. Please watch the video “First Do No Harm” and read the Office of Study Abroad Student Handbook on safety and preparation.

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