Education Abroad Advising Sheet: School of Public Health

Education abroad can help you...

- Understand your field of studies from an international perspective
- Broaden outlook and understanding of the world
- Take a step toward personal, academic, and professional goals
- Network and develop academic and professional contacts
- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Expand and enhance cross-cultural communication and competency
- Experience another culture and language environment first hand
- Improve language skills
- Improve problem-solving skills
- Challenge yourselves to discover new strengths and perspectives
- Enhance critical and independent thinking skills
- Gain confidence academically, personally and professionally

Set goals and plan for results

- Begin at least 6–12 months in advance of participation in education abroad. It is never too early to start planning.
- Set some goals. There is no single type of education abroad opportunity that is best suited for you in the School of Public Health. There are many good education abroad opportunities, and the best one depends on what you aim to achieve.
- Prioritize goals. Consider long-term academic and professional goals, as well as UAlberta degree requirements.
- Give yourselves time to research and talk to Faculty advisors, the Education Abroad Program Office and returned students from education abroad

Can I afford education abroad?

Yes, with good planning, you can afford to go abroad through applying for scholarships or a student loan, and by saving. Seeking financial support through scholarships or a student loan will help offset the cost incurred by international travel and accommodation. The University of Alberta International (UAI) offers more than $500,000 in scholarship to support students participating in study abroad. Faculties and Graduate Studies may have awards to encourage student participation in education abroad. Even though you are studying abroad, you may be eligible for a student loan. Personal saving is another great way to save up for your sojourn abroad. If you work, you should consider saving for education abroad when setting your spending priorities.

For UAI funding information consult the Education Abroad Program website at or visit the Education Abroad Program (EAP) office in 3–600 Enterprise Square Building, 10230 Jasper Ave.
What are the next steps?

Explore

The Education Abroad Program/ University of Alberta International (EAP/UAI) and Faculties have online resources and websites where you can find useful information on education abroad opportunities and options.

Get a general overview of the types of Education Abroad programs offered, eligibility information, costs of studying/working abroad, etc. by visiting the Education Abroad Program website.

Investigate Programs and Options

The University of Alberta facilitates a range of education abroad programs, such as semester/year exchange, short term/summer, faculty-led and different types of work abroad programs.

Learn more by viewing the definitions of the different types of education abroad opportunities available at the University of Alberta.

To search for international opportunities provided through the Education Abroad Program office and across campus, you can use:

- EAP’s Go Abroad Program Finder (searchable database)
- External Opportunities information

Talk to EAP and Faculty Advisors

The EAP coordinators and advisors in your Faculty will be able to provide guidance, consultation, and detailed information on opportunities relevant to your interests. They will be able to help you identify suitable program(s) and viable options based on your academic need and interest.

- Education Abroad Drop-In Advising Schedule
- Please check with your Faculty Advisors for faculty advising

Understand the Application and Selection Process

The application process differs for each type of program - exchange, summer/short term and internship program. Please click on the appropriate link to find more information on how to apply, what documents are required, and how participants are selected etc.

- For application for exchanges or summer/short term programs, please click here: Apply for an Exchange/Summer/Short Term Program
- For application for internship programs, please go to Apply for an Internship Program

Research and Apply for Funding

- UAI offers Education Abroad group and individual awards for students going to study abroad. To see what scholarships are available, please consult the UAI Awards and Funding webpage.
- Students may also find funding opportunities within their own faculties and through external sources. To see what scholarships are available, please consult the Faculty Awards and Other Funding webpage.
Risk Management

Pre-Departure Training
Students going abroad must receive pre-departure training, which is comprised of two parts:

- **Online Pre-departure Moodle course:** EAP offers this course, which is designed as resource to support students before, during and after studying abroad. It covers relevant topics such as cultural adaptation, financial issues, academic matters, and risk management. School of Public Health students complete only the modules that SPH faculty have identified as relevant. This component is mandatory for all students who are going abroad for a field practicum or to conduct thesis research.

- **In-person Pre-departure workshop:** This interactive workshop is designed to prepare students for cultural encounters and risk management through the review of case studies and scenario simulation. As well, students will have the opportunity to meet and talk with returned students who have studied abroad for helpful and practical advice.

Travel Registration
Prior to departure, all SPH students who are going abroad for a field practicum or to conduct thesis research must register with:

- [UAlberta’s UGo Off-Campus Travel Registry](https://www.ucampusreg.ualberta.ca/)

Academic Considerations
You should discuss the specifics of going abroad and choosing and taking academic courses with your academic advisor as part of your academic program plan. Below are aspects you should be aware of as part of academic considerations.

Faculty approval
All students must have approval from their faculty to participate in an Education Abroad Program (EAP). You need to take the following steps to get Faculty approval for this type of education abroad opportunity:

Exchange and Summer Abroad Programs
1. Once you have created an online application and submitted the initial application, the initial application will be reviewed by the EAP coordinator.
2. If the initial application is approved, you will be granted access to the rest of the online application system to submit the final application.
3. As part of the application, you are required to complete and submit the Preliminary Approval form (Exchange) or the Permission to Participate form (Summer Abroad). These forms are available to the students through their online application.
4. You are required to download the Preliminary Approval form (Exchange) or Permission to Participate form (Summer Abroad) from the online application, print the form, complete the required sections of the form and take the form to your Faculty for signature.
5. You must allow up to 4 weeks for the Faculty to sign and return the form to you.
6. Once you have received the signed form from your Faculty, you must scan and upload the completed form to your online application.
Please note, the Preliminary Approval form and the Permission to Participate form are only available once the student has been approved to complete the application process.

Credit Transfer
Students may be eligible to receive academic transfer credit if the coursework they complete abroad fits into the program requirements of their UAlberta degree. Faculties will assess credit on a per-course basis and factors such as:

- the hours of instruction for a course
- the length/duration of a course
- the level of a course
- the course content

Information about credit transfer to the School of Public Health can be found at:

For assistance, please contact the Student Services Coordinator: Felicity Hey, 3-308 ECHA, felicity.hey@ualberta.ca or 780-248.1316.

Education abroad opportunities for students in the School of Public Health

Education Abroad Program Information
As a student in the School of Public Health, you are eligible to apply for and participate in all of the Education Abroad Programs that are open to all UAlberta students. Use the Go Abroad Program Finder to view all education abroad programs for which you are eligible.

SPH students have participated in Work Abroad Programs, such as:

**Americas**
- MEXICO
  - Canadian Consulate Guadalajara Internship Program

**UNITED STATES**
- Academic Internship Council Program
- Alberta-Smithsonian Internship Program
- Cultural Vistas Internship Program
- The Washington Center Internship Program

**Europe**
- GERMANY
  - Alberta-Saxony Internship Program
  - e3 in Berlin Program
  - RISE Internship Program

**Worldwide**
- Aga Khan University Internship Program (Kenya, Tanzania, India, Tajikistan)
- Students for Development Program (Kenya, Uganda, Zambia)
School of Public Health Opportunities

MPH Field Practicum and MSc/PhD Thesis Research

Opportunities for MPH field practicum or MSc/PhD thesis research may be available through established collaborative partnerships between faculty members and organizations abroad, or may propose other suitable settings. Students have completed practicum placements or thesis research in a wide range of countries including: Botswana, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala.

For additional information about planning an international or global health MPH field practicum placement abroad, please consult with your academic advisor and contact the SPH Practicum Program Director, Ruth Wolfe, 3-345 ECHA, wolfe@ualberta.ca or 780-492-6476.

For additional information about MSc/PhD thesis opportunities, please contact your academic advisor.

For-Credit Course

In 2013, the School of Public Health offered a new course with funding from University of Alberta International. HPS 506: Interdisciplinary Health Promotion Field School interdisciplinary course is taught as a field school in Zambia in spring term, exposing students to learning about a global health promotion in context.

For additional information about this course, please contact: Gene Krupa, ekrupa@ualberta.ca or 250-762-9316 / 250-863-9316 (mobile).