Child Family Health International

CFHI Internship for Rice University Center for Civic Leadership Students
2018

Child Family Health International is a leader in global health education, facilitating international internships that meet rigorous ethical, safety, and academic standards. CFHI’s socially responsible approach and reciprocal, long-term partnerships with communities, ongoing support of local healthcare infrastructure, US and local staff structures, as well as time-tested policies and procedures protect the wellbeing of both students and host communities. Our global partnerships with physicians, clinical and public/community health sites are established and reliable, and CFHI offers the expertise needed to administer global health programs to match academic needs.

Child Health & Social Determinants
Accra, Ghana

Ghana, located in West Africa, has a long and rich cultural history and is considered one of the most stable and democratic countries in Africa. With strong political and economical systems, and vibrant cities, Ghana is the perfect gateway for a rich cultural experience in Africa.

Despite strong economic growth and a stable political system, Ghana still has a long road to providing quality healthcare for children throughout the country. Its citizens have been working tirelessly to reduce infant mortality rates and improve the overall health of the pediatric population in the country. However, social and economic conditions have continued to impact the health of children, with malaria, anemia, and malnutrition the leading contributors to childhood morbidity in Ghana.

Living conditions, nutrition, physical environment, social and community support, water and sanitation, housing, rather than individual factors such as genetics or other behavioral causes are major contributions to the cause and burden of disease. In the bustling capital city of Accra, see firsthand the various factors that directly affect the health of Ghanaian children.

Join local medical and public health professionals in the historic Children's Hospital in Accra and see how these professionals provide care in a resource-poor environment, overcoming challenges such as the financial and structural constraints of the healthcare system itself and the social determinants that lead to illness in children. Student internships will be based at the public pediatric hospital and may include development and implementation of health education materials, data review and analysis of hard-copy, hand-written patient charts, and review and updating of patient intake documents and procedures.

Students on this program will stay in a CFHI program house, accompanied by a caretaker and/or local coordinator. Language classes will take either at a local language school or at a break room in the hospital or program accommodations.

Ideal candidates will have experience in or knowledge of public health at the policy and community education/outreach levels. There is no language requirement on this program.

Fee for 9-week internship: $6,150. Fee does not include flights or visa.
CFHI Global Health Education Programs

CFHI On-Site Partners

At each program site, CFHI has two local leaders who work a team to run all elements of the program. CFHI local partners have worked with the organization for many years and are in regular communication with CFHI headquarters in San Francisco. CFHI conducts regular site visits by our US-based staff to each program.

The local Medical Director oversees and arranges all clinical and public health-related activities and is also responsible for coordinating healthcare services for participants as needed. They oversee a cadre of preceptors, who are the one-on-one mentors and supervisors for interns within both clinical and public/community health sites. They maintain strong partnerships with on-site preceptors (supervisors) at each clinical/public health internship site.

The CFHI Local Coordinator manages the logistics of housing, transportation, and cultural immersion throughout the program. He or she is responsible for arranging airport pickup and drop off, accommodations, transport to and from internships, and logistics for all program activities. The Local Coordinator acts as the go-to person for any questions or issues related to cultural immersion. The Local Coordinator conducts a weekly reflection meeting and addresses any issues with accommodation or transportation logistics with the participants.

Global Health Competencies

CFHI programs are designed to provide participants with concrete skills for global health work and domestic work within multicultural and international populations, and to broaden and deepen interns’ understanding of the context of this work and the populations being served.

By the end of their program, interns will be able to:

- With respect to patients and populations, articulate the relationship between health and the social determinants of health.
- Demonstrate an understanding of cultural and ethical issues in working with and learning within the context of underserved populations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of barriers to health, as well as healthcare delivery strategies and systems in low-resource settings and how these influence access to care.
- Demonstrate a commitment to professional behavior while working collaboratively with health care team members and being respectful of differences in knowledge, practices, and culture.
- Identify the major causes of morbidity and mortality affecting the populations encountered during the Global Health Education Program or Internship.
Program Components

Pre-Departure Training (PDT):
Each participant will also have access to the following pre-departure material in their online profile:

- Reader #1 Logistics: Includes important information regarding travel to their internship site including visas, recommended vaccinations and other on-site logistics.
- Reader #2: Global Health ethics: Summary of global health ethics and 5 peer-reviewed scholarly articles that will inform their experience in-country.
- Reader #3 - Description of the country’s healthcare system with emphasis on the specific program topic along with 5 peer-reviewed scholarly articles.
- GAPS Instructions (Global Ambassadors for Patient Safety): An online module series offering various case studies to prepare students for their clinical experience.
- Globesmart: An interactive tool to help increase cross-cultural communication skills and build meaningful personal and professional relationships in new cultural contexts.
- CFHI staff is also available to answer any questions via email or phone.

On-Site Orientation:

- Upon arrival, CFHI’s local team will hold an orientation meeting. At this orientation, the following topics are discussed: Health and safety, emergency procedures, cultural immersion, local transportation, “house” rules, clinical/research schedules.
- Lectures, Cultural activities, Educational field trips: Site visits, interdisciplinary and experiential components gave students an in-depth look at various clinical and public health challenges faced in and around the program site. This program will include lectures from local health experts including the program Medical Director and preceptors, and participation in various health education and outreach activities in the local community.