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.


Tarija, Bolivia

Visit Tarija, a tranquil city in southern Bolivia of about 200,000 people. This picturesque region is known as the “Bolivian Andalucia” for its vineyards and Spanish cultural influence. Tarija offers universal health insurance, which can create high demand for services and strains on the system due to lack of personnel and equipment. During this program, interns will come to understand cultural and socioeconomic barriers patients face in accessing healthcare services and witness treatments for pathologies not commonly seen in North America, including parasitosis, tuberculosis, and Chagas. In addition to gaining insight into the local healthcare challenges and systems, interns will focus their efforts around contributing to the efforts of a local educational NGO, EdyFu.

Founded in 1997, EdyFu is a Bolivian non-governmental organization that aims to promote education amongst school-aged children and youth from underprivileged background. The overwhelming majority of the children that use EdyFu’s services come from an extremely disadvantaged and difficult background; many endure domestic violence, alcoholism in the home, sexual abuse, and many are not able to attend school regularly, as they must work to support their families financially. The center provides them a secure shelter and a safe place for them to study and continue schooling. The organization runs 3 different center in the city of Tarija and offers various services including: Academic tutoring after school program, free lunch program, academic scholarships, sports and recreation activities, social services and legal advice for parents and children, basic medical referral support, classes in trade jobs like gardening, electricity, or cooking, and store selling community-made arts and crafts.

The organization also runs a temporary housing facility for children who cannot stay home because of domestic violence or other extenuating circumstances. The staff focus on working with these children to address behavioral issues as well as values and self esteem. The lodging is temporary until the organization and government agencies can work and intervene to find a long-term solutions for the family and child in question. Interns on this program will contribute to all regular and ongoing program operations and initiatives including teaching, special activities, etc.

Language Requirement: Beginner Spanish (level 1) is required for this program. Please review this page to determine your Spanish level: https://www.cfhi.org/spanish-self-assessment-guide
Ideal candidates will have experience in or knowledge of sexual/reproductive health and rights and gender, especially in low-resource settings.

Fee for 9-week internship: $5,120. Fee does not include flights.

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.