

Child Family Health International

Child Family Health International – OMNI MED

Mukono District, Uganda

Community Health Workers and Global Health

Organization Overview

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.

Social Issue Focus & Impact

Uganda's health system is being built, in part, by NGOs working in partnership with the government. A key resource of the Ugandan healthcare system are Village Health Trainers (VHTs), who are elected by their local villagers and serve three primary roles: to spread basic preventive health information, to refer sick patients to local or sometimes distant health centers, and to track health information for the Ministry of Health. VHTs play a vital role in Uganda's health system and CFHI's partner Omni Med has perfected the approach of garnering the support of international interns to train and support VHTs.

Position Description

The nonprofit organization Omni Med trains 1 VHT for every 25-30 households locally through a weeklong course, then offers ongoing training for all VHTs. Interns at this site accompany VHTs to do training and community health education in surrounding communities. They also participate in home visits to carry out health education and monitoring of basic health indicators. Interns will help maintain the VHTs' knowledge base by helping to develop health education materials and accompanying and supporting VHTs as they lead trainings during meetings. Participants will also see and participate in the full scope of Omni Med's local activities, including construction of protected water sources, construction of stoves, and distribution of insecticide treated nets (ITN), among others. Omni Med has long believed in studying its impact, having conducted multiple clinical trials measuring program efficacy thus far. Interns will be exposed to, and will help facilitate, ongoing research initiatives while on site.

This is a rural program. Interns stay at the Omni Med/CFHI house in Mukono district of Uganda, about 2 hours outside of Kampala. Language classes will take place either in the village or at the house.

Student Profile

Ideal candidates will have some experience with or knowledge of community-based or public health education/outreach, and/or global health impact evaluation. There is no language requirement for this program.

Time Frame

9 Weeks

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