

STATEMENT 3.1.6 – International Electives & Risk Management
Undergraduate Medical Education

Approved by:	Curriculum Committee
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I. PURPOSE

An increasing number of medical students are participating in international electives. This presents an incredible learning opportunity that is accompanied by unique preparation, logistical and safety challenges which will be addressed in this document.

This statement sets a framework for ensuring safety of Schulich Medicine and Dentistry undergraduate students undertaking electives abroad.

II. STATEMENT

a. Types of International Electives

i. International Global Health Non-Credit Pre-Clinical Electives (GH NCPRE)

- 1.** GH NCPRE completed by medical students in the summer following Year 1 and 2. All pre-clinical international electives are approved and managed by the Office of Global Health.

ii. Clinical Electives

- 1.** Clinical electives are completed during the designated clinical elective period in fourth year and are divided into two different types:

a. International Global Health Clinical Elective

i. These are electives that are completed in either:

- 1.** A low-middle income country at a designated Office of Global Health Partner site
- 2.** A high-income country with global health specific objectives and/or working with underserved populations
- 3.** These electives are approved and managed by the Office of Global Health.

ii. International Clinical Elective (non-global health)

1. These are electives that are completed in:

- a.** A high-income country without global health specific objectives and not specifically working with an underserved population.
- b.** These electives are approved and managed by the Chair of the Clerkship and Electives Committee.

iii. Definitions of Low-Middle and High-Income Countries

- 1.** A high-income country is classified by the World Bank in 2012 as a country that has a gross national income (GNI) per capita of \$12,616 or more.

2. A low-middle income country is classified by the World Bank in 2012 as a country that has a GNI per capita of \$1,035 or less (low income), \$1,036-\$4,085 (lower middle income) or \$4,086-\$12,615 (upper middle income).
 - a. Definitions: <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications>
 - b. Country Specific Classification: <http://data.worldbank.org/country>
- b. Risk Management
- i. The following conditions must be met for all international pre-clinical and clinical electives (global health or non-global health):
 1. Security of Country: The Office of Global Health and UME follow the travel advisory reports from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development (DFATD). This is a four risk level system: exercise normal security precautions, exercise a high degree of caution, avoid non-essential travel and avoid all travel. As such, electives will not be approved to locations where the DFATD rating is “Avoid Non-Essential Travel” or “Avoid All Travel”. In the interest of student safety, an elective may be cancelled or changed at any time leading up to or during the elective should the security rating of the country be changed.
 - ii. Travel Health Requirements
 1. Before departure the student must:
 - a. Provide proof (to the responsible office) of a visit to a travel clinic or family physician who advises on vaccination, travel health measures and medications that are relevant to the location of the elective.
 - b. Provide proof (to the responsible office) of out-of-country personal travel health insurance that meets the criteria recommended by the Government of Canada (<http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/publications/well-on-your-way>)
 - c. Please note: it is the students choice if they want to purchase trip cancellation and/or trip interruption insurance, however, the University will not be responsible for any costs associated with changes in travel plans even if the changes are a result of a university policy.
 - iii. Personal Protective Equipment
 1. Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP): Each student must follow the Office of Global Health Guidelines on HIV-PEP.
 2. N95 Masks: Each student must be fitted with a N95 mask and take an appropriate number of N95 masks with them if they will not be available at the host site.
 3. Gloves and eye protection: Each student must inquire about locally provided personal protective equipment. If they are not provided it is the students’ responsibility to arrange to take appropriate supplies with them.
 - iv. Student registration requirements
 1. Before departure the student must:
 - a. Register with Safety Abroad. Each student will be entered by the responsible office into the Western University safety abroad program that will prompt the student to fill out the student’s rights and responsibilities form and to provide required information (student emergency contact information, travel health insurance information, etc)
 - b. Register with the Registration of Canadians Abroad (ROCA). This is a government of Canada service that enables government officials to contact students and assist them in case of an emergency abroad, such as a natural disaster, civil unrest or to inform the student of an emergency at home. The student is responsible for completing the online registration (<http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration>) and providing confirmation to the responsible office prior to travel.
 - v. Pre-Departure Training Requirements

1. Each student completing an international elective is required to complete a one hour session on travel safety through Western International at Western University in the academic year of travel.
 2. For International NCPRE and International Global Health clinical electives only, students are required to complete an additional one hour session on culture through Western International and a three hour session of Office of Global Health Pre-Departure Training that includes topics on medical safety, language, the use of medical interpreters and ethics. Pre-Departure training is designed to address the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) guidelines on pre-departure training.
 3. The Office of Global Health reserves the right to have students complete an additional training session either on-line or in-person in the year of travel as new training becomes available or if the student is considered to need additional pre-departure training as determined by the UME or Office of Global Health.
- vi. Health and Safety Incident Reporting
1. The student is required to report any health and safety concerns related to work place injury or exposure to the responsible office at Western University as well as to the preceptor at the host site as soon as possible but this should not delay the student seeking immediate local medical care.
 - a. For work place related health concerns the student is required to report to the host site occupational health and safety department (or equivalent) or after-hours equivalent for immediate medical attention.
 - b. For non-work place related health concerns the student is required to seek medical attention as recommended by their travel health physician at their pre-departure travel medicine assessment.
- vii. Responsibility
1. It is the individual responsibility of the student to apply for, ensure that they meet eligibility criteria/program requirements and cover all costs associated with international electives