

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
INTERNATIONAL ELECTIVES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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PURPOSE

Schulich medical students may participate in international electives. This statement sets a framework for ensuring safety of Schulich Medicine and Dentistry undergraduate medical students undertaking electives abroad.

STATEMENT

Types of International Electives

- Pre-clinical year 1 and 2
- Students enrolled in Year 1 and Year 2 of the MD program may participate in an International Health Equity Learning (IHEL) experience. Students will be supported by the Internationalization Office and the Undergraduate Medical Education Office to arrange a non-credit elective at a partner site acceptable to IHEL. Electives must be more than 30 clinical hours and are recommended to be at least four weeks long. All pre-clinical international electives are non-credit. Refer to Schulich Internationalization [Medicine \(MD\) - Internationalization - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](https://www.uwo.ca/medicine/internationalization/)
- Clinical Electives year 4
 - Clinical electives are completed during the designated clinical elective period in year 4 of the MD Program.
 - Students enrolled in Year 4 of the MD program may participate in an International Health Equity Learning (IHEL) experience. Students will be supported by the Internationalization Office and the Undergraduate Medical Education Office to arrange a Clinical Elective at a recognized partner site acceptable to IHEL and that meets the student's learning objectives.
 - Electives are up to a maximum of four weeks in duration.
- Risk Management
 - The following conditions must be met for all international pre-clinical and clinical electives:

- Security of Country: The Schulich Internationalization Office and UME follow the travel advisory reports from the Government of Canada Travel Office. Electives will not be approved to locations where the 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.
- Travel Health Requirements
 - Before departure the student must:
 - 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.
 - 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>). Out-of-country travel insurance is **mandatory**.
 - Please note it is the student's 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.
- Personal Protective Equipment
 - Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP): Each student must follow the Office of Internationalization Guidelines on HIV-PEP.
 - N95 Masks: Each student must be fitted with an N95 mask and take an appropriate number of N95 masks with them if they will not be available at the host site.
 - 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.
- Student registration requirements
 - Before departure the student must:
 - Register with Western's Travel Registry. Each student **must** enroll in Western International's Travel Registry. The Travel Registry tracks all traveler information across Western and enables Western to monitor student safety and update students on travel advisories from the Government of Canada.
 - 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. 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.
 - Register with International SOS (ISOS), which is a worldwide service available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week providing students with emergency assistance.
- Pre-Departure Training Requirements
 - Each student completing an international elective is required to complete Western International's virtual pre-departure modules and achieve at least 80% in the final quiz from a maximum of two attempts.

For International clinical electives only, students are required to complete an additional three-

hour session Pre-Departure Training via the Schulich Internationalization Office 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.

- The Internationalization Office reserves the right to have students complete further additional training sessions 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 Internationalization Office.
- Health and Safety Incident Reporting
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- Responsibility
 - It is the student's individual responsibility to apply for, ensure they meet eligibility criteria/program requirements and cover all international electives costs.
 - Of the student to review the Western Safety Abroad policy and procedure [mapp153.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#).
- Post-elective debrief with Schulich International and completion of an elective evaluation must be completed.