

**STATEMENT 3.1.6 – International Electives & Risk Management**  
**Undergraduate Medical Education**

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Curriculum Committee</b>
<b>Date of original approval:</b>	<b>March 2014</b>
<b>Date of last review:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Date of next scheduled review:</b>	<b>March 2016</b>

**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.



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