

About CFHI's Global Health Education Programs

In today's world we often see the uneven distribution of healthcare that leaves many impoverished communities underserved. Economic, political, and social factors all contribute to people's access to healthcare, both internationally and at home. Increasingly, we need culturally and linguistically competent healthcare providers around the world to address these inequities.

Child Family Health International's (CFHI) Global Health Education Programs combine instruction, experience, service, and reflection to create a model that supports physicians, clinical sites and communities abroad, addresses the healthcare needs of the underserved, and adds an unforgettable experiential element to each program participant's professional development.

As a student in one of CFHI's global health education programs, you have the opportunity to be alongside physicians in hospitals and clinics around the world and gain insight on the contextual constructs of illness and healing in foreign settings. We'll give you all the tools you need to prepare for clinical rotations in a foreign country, including pre-departure orientation materials, on-line educational opportunities, language classes at specified program sites, and cultural immersion through accommodation with host families.

Since 1992, CFHI has arranged for thousands of pre-health and health professional students hailing from over 500 top universities in the U.S. and the world, to participate in our programs in Bolivia, Ecuador, India, Mexico, Nicaragua and South Africa.

Program Alumni return from the host country with new perspectives on healthcare systems and delivery in places where resources and supplies are extremely limited. CFHI Alumni have a host of opportunities available to them after they return to stay focused and involved in global health. For more information about alumni programs, [click here](#).

What can I do on a CFHI program?

Each of our program sites has many locally qualified and experienced healthcare providers, so your primary motivation for participation should not focus on a concept of humanitarian aid, in which you expect to provide medical care to people who would otherwise not receive it. Your main objective should be to actively observe, according to current language abilities, level of training, and local laws, in order to develop a high level of community health awareness. While abroad, this happens in the social and cultural context of the program site.

What are the objectives of the program?

Generally speaking, CFHI's Global Health Education Programs should help you:

- Develop a larger sense of cultural competency
- Observe and develop existing clinical skills
- Broaden public health knowledge
- Develop creativity in problem-solving
- Deepen your commitment to service
- Promote medical supply conservation

Socially Responsible and Financially Just Model

CFHI's global health education programs are more than an exciting way to spend the month learning about another part of the world's healthcare and your place in it. The funds generated through program fees go to provide numerous support services to ensure that your program needs are met, in addition to directly supporting the communities that host you. In many ways, the clinicians and facilities with whom you work are stretched to their limits. We feel strongly that the physicians who work with CFHI students should be recognized as the experts they are and one small way we do this is by compensating them for their time and mentorship or in lieu of honorary compensation, establishing a fund to support the improvement of healthcare at the local level.

CFHI also supports other programs at program sites, such as our Community Initiatives, which include Recover, Community Health Initiatives and Professional Development. You can read more about these programs [here](#).

What role can domestic Institutional Partners (universities, collaboratives, et. al.) play?

In addition to providing quality programs for individual students, CFHI is dedicated to building relationships with institutions of higher learning for relevant global programs. Creating and sustaining international programs is a long-term and labor-intensive process. Our global partnerships with physicians and clinic sites are established and reliable, and CFHI can offer the expertise needed to administer a program to match institutional needs. Currently we have several Institutional Partnership programs operating, including, but not limited to: University of California at Davis, Stanford University, Princeton University, Oregon University System's Global Internship IE3 Program, and Duke University School of Nursing.

For more information, please contact Menraj Sachdev, Program Development and Quality Manager at menraj@cfhi.org.