

ISEP Summer in Ghana - Global Health

Course Title: Global Health in Ghana

Location: Online for pre-departure training and on-site for 5-week rotations in Accra, Ghana

Credits: 4 US Credits (University of Minnesota transcript)

Contact Hours: 172 hours | 5 weeks

Clinical Rotation: 150 hours

Course Instruction: 22 hours

About CFHI:

Child Family Health International (CFHI), a United Nations-recognized non-profit organization, is a distinguished leader in Global Health experiential learning for undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate trainees through both faculty-led and non-faculty-led program structures. The organization has been providing standard-setting community-based study abroad courses for over 30 years.

Course Description:

This course offers a unique opportunity for trainees to engage closely with local health professionals, establishing meaningful connections and gaining valuable insights into different healthcare realities. Trainees are placed in existing healthcare settings under the mentorship of assigned preceptors that hold the necessary credentials to practice locally. In line with best practices in global health ethical engagement, this course focuses on providing participants with an opportunity to develop key global health competencies.

In the bustling capital city of Accra, participants will have firsthand educational experiences under various themes based on interests and availability. These include maternal and child health, pediatrics, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, rehabilitative care in children and adults (in the aspect of Physical and Occupational therapy), and some aspects of Adult Medicine (depending on the unit or site). Other focus areas may be available upon request.

Participants have the opportunity to shadow health workers and see how they provide care in a low-resource environment, overcoming challenges such as the healthcare system's financial and structural constraints and the existing social determinants.

The course is inter-professional and available to people from different education levels, pre-med students, medical students, residents, public health students, nursing students, social science majors, social work students, pre-health students, dental students, pharmacy students, allied health students, and more. Clinical and public health rotations are tailored to participants according to their educational level and professional goals.

Course Components:

Pre-Departure Training (10 hours self-paced)

Each participant will be required to complete the following interactive Pre-Departure Training (PDT) modules in their CFHI online profile:

- [*Global Ambassadors for Patient Safety \(GAPS\) module*](#)
- [*Pillars of Global Health: Building Competencies for Global Health Engagement module*](#)
- *Cross-cultural Effectiveness & Adaptability module*
- *Self-Care and Wellness for your CFHI Experience module*

Pre-Departure Live Online Sessions (3 hours)

CFHI participants are required to attend two live online virtual pre-departure sessions:

- *Pre-departure Health and Safety Orientation* (1.5 hours)
- *Course pre-departure orientation with CFHI Medical Director, Ghana* (1.5 hours)

Onsite Orientation (4 hours)

Upon arrival, CFHI's local team conducts an orientation to ensure participants are fully prepared for their experience.

Observational Clinical Rotations (150 hours)

In line with CFHI's commitment to best practices in global health, clinical rotations and public health activities are strictly observational. Participants will have the opportunity to integrate into local healthcare teams and shadow providers by joining them on rounds and observing patient encounters. Assigned to specific departments under the guidance of a preceptor, students will experience a wide range of clinical activities and may also be asked to assist with clerical duties.

This program focuses on two primary sites in Accra:

- Public pediatric hospital under the Ghana Health Service
 - Participants may also experience other secondary sites in partnership with this hospital, such as a maternity center and one of the units of a pediatric department of a tertiary hospital in Ghana.
- The Department of Occupational Therapy (OT), School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences, University of Ghana, located at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.
 - This option is reserved solely for occupational therapy students.

Weekly Health Lectures (5 hours)

These seminars are structured as interactive lectures, designed to enhance participant understanding of the local health systems and realities in Ghana. Led by local health experts, the sessions are held weekly, each focusing on a different topic. The methodology of these seminars encourages active participation and dialogue—students are strongly encouraged to bring their questions and engage directly with the content. Students are also required to deliver a weekly 5-minute presentation on a case identified during their clinical rotations. Full list of seminar topics available upon request.

Learning Outcomes:

CFHI courses are designed to provide participants with concrete skills for global health work within multicultural and international populations while broadening and deepening participants' understanding of how health is shaped across different contexts and populations.

By the end of their course, participants will be able to:

- Through ethical engagement with patients and populations, articulate the relationship between health and the social determinants of health.
- Demonstrate an understanding of cultural and ethical issues in working with and learning within the context of underserved populations.
- Outline assets, health needs, health challenges, and inequities among different communities.
- Recognize the barriers to health and healthcare delivery in low-resource settings.
- Demonstrate a commitment to professional behavior while working collaboratively with healthcare team members and being respectful of differences in knowledge, practices, and culture.

Assessment:

Item	Percentage
Completion of pre-departure content	5%
Weekly Case Study Report and Presentation	20%
Photo Essay	20%
Final Paper/ Reflection Essay	30%
Clinical Rotation Participation	25%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

A 94-100

C+ 77-79

A- 90-93

C 73-76

B+ 87-89

C- 70-72

B 83-86

D+ 67-69

B- 80-82

F <60

Readings:

Readings for this course come from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: peer-reviewed journals, public health reviews, governmental and non-governmental reports, and news articles. Full list available upon request.