



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Faculty of Health Sciences
Medical School for International Health
in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center

Overview of the Clerkship in International Health and Medicine

The goal of the clerkship is to enable the student to experience the practice of medicine in a cultural environment other than his/her own and to apply theoretical knowledge to different cultures and ethnic groups while working under varied conditions affected by the economics, traditions, religious beliefs, limited resources and geography of the site. The clerkship consists of a one-month clinical rotation (with local students) at a university teaching hospital and one month at a rural primary healthcare center. In addition, each student must execute a supervised research project dealing with a relevant community health issue.

The clerkship is supervised by a faculty member from the host medical school who serves as the academic coordinator. The BGU medical students are fully integrated with the local medical students. The IHM Clerkship takes place from mid-January to mid-March of Year IV. Each IHM Clerkship is located at a teaching site of an accredited medical school in a lesser-developed country. Currently, the IHM clerkship may be done at Moi University Faculty of Health Sciences in Eldoret, Kenya; Addis Ababa University Medical Faculty in Ethiopia; B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences in Nepal and Christian Medical College in Vellore, India.

1. Overall Goal:

Students will know how to promote health and provide the best possible medical care, with limited resources, in lesser developed countries.

2. Detailed Learning Objectives:

Diagnosis, treatment and prevention of specific conditions and illnesses.

Familiarity with simple laboratory tests used to diagnose locally prevalent illnesses.

Understanding the organization and functions of a primary health center;

Understanding the logistical difficulties associated with health education, public health surveys, and health care delivery in a developing country.

Protection from exposure to common infectious diseases.

3. Framework:

One month in a university teaching hospital;

One month in a rural primary healthcare

Project: Each student must complete a project, under the supervision of a local faculty member, which deals with a community health issue of the host country. Required: written and oral project report.

4. Description:

Small group work with medical students from the host university.

Supervised participation in daily clinical activities, presentation of patients,

development of patient treatment plans in the formal daily teaching rounds

Participation in academic activities of the department of community health.

5. Evaluation:

Site academic coordinator evaluation of student.

Student evaluation of site and program

BGU faculty evaluation of site, student, and IHM Clerkship

6. Preparation:

Site manual provided to each student at end of Year III

(description of site, requirements, logistics)

Pre-Departure Clerkship orientation (Israel - January, Year IV)

Mini-course in field epidemiology

Introduction to health issues, history and culture of host country

Overview of student responsibilities, health precautions, travel arrangements



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**REGULATIONS
Clerkship in International Health and Medicine**

- Students will travel from Israel to site and return as a group. MSIH is responsible for all travel arrangements to and from site.
- Each student is responsible for valid passports, visas, travel documents, required vaccinations and insurance (including evacuation insurance).
- Students must stay at accommodations arranged by MSIH.
- Each student is responsible for accommodation fees and leisure expenses.
- Attendance at all activities of the IHM Clerkship is mandatory.
- Exemption from formal activities is permissible only with approval of the IHM Clerkship supervisor at the host institution.
- Students will abide to the specific rules and regulations of the host institution.
- Leisure activity after working hours and travel only as a group or at least in couples.
- Pregnant students cannot participate at Clerkship sites in developing countries.
- Arrangements can be made for IHM Clerkship in Israel or independent site for pregnant students or students with families (arrangements to be made on individual basis by student and approved by MSIH at least one month prior to the Clerkship.)
- Special arrangements for family members:
 - a. Only a spouse can accompany a student to the site (no children or a spouse who is pregnant) to Christian Medical College, Vellore, India or Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia (not to rural attachment)
 - b. Spouse must reside with group at site accommodations; participation is dependent on availability of housing on site.
 - c. Spouse must travel with group from Israel to site (spouse is responsible for all travel costs).
 - d. Spouse is considered a representative of MSIH and must abide by all the regulations of the IHM Clerkship as listed above.
 - e. Spouse and family may accompany student to IHM Clerkship in Israel or independent site.