

Policy on Medical Student Participation in International Educational Experiences

IUSM's Statement of Support of Medical Student International Experiences

Indiana University and the IU School of Medicine encourage medical students to have an international experience during their academic career at Indiana University. This policy does not apply to programs offered through the IU School of Medicine that have already been approved by the University. These already-approved programs include the IU Kenya Program located in Eldoret, Kenya, the Honduras program, and the program with Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou, China. A complete list of such approved programs is maintained by the IU Office of International Affairs. (See, <http://iabroad.iu.edu>)

Growth in International Medical Student Opportunities

The number and nature of such experiences has grown substantially over time and this trend may well continue. With such a wide range of international opportunities comes the corresponding responsibility to pursue those that, first and foremost, provide an appropriate quality educational experience. Doing so will also ensure that IUSM's reputational interests are appropriately protected and promoted.

Risks Inherent in International Medical Student Experiences

In addition, greater than normal risk of harm may be inherent in such international travel experiences. Such risks require careful consideration and balancing. The high-quality educational benefits of a given program in a certain locale may nevertheless be outweighed by the risk of harm to the students. In addition, an appropriate international medical student experience must account for the limited fund of knowledge and clinical skills possessed by the average medical student such that students are not thrust into settings for which they are untrained or otherwise ill-equipped. In order to promote the concept of a high quality international medical education experience that appropriately balances benefit and risk, the following policy outlines the process and expectations for such international experiences.

Scope of the Policy – Groups of IUSM Students Pursuing Educational Opportunities

This policy applies to all groups (i.e. more than one medical student) of IUSM medical students pursuing international educational opportunities whether organized, sponsored or arranged by IUSM faculty, staff, IUSM student groups or others as well as all individual IUSM medical students pursuing international educational opportunities where the medical student(s) are expecting or intending to observe, support or participate in clinical activities or care delivery. This policy will apply during scheduled academic time or during vacation periods. Applying this policy broadly to all IUSM medical student international travel opportunities ensures that there will be a thorough and consistent application of the relevant rules, procedures and other considerations. Processes for students who arrange their own individual international educational opportunities for academic credit are also delineated below.

- All such opportunities must be approved in advance by Indiana University's Overseas Study Advisory Council (OSAC).
- It is recommended that the OSAC process be started 12-15 months before the intended departure date of the students. Under special circumstances, the process may be expedited. Details of the proposal process are available at:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/policies/develop/proposal.shtml>

The OSAC process requires demonstration of support from the IUSM Dean's Office. ***Therefore all such proposals must be provided to and approved by the IUSM Associate Dean for Student Affairs and IUSM Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education before submission to OSAC.*** After approval by the IUSM Associate Deans, the group will then work with the IUPUI Director of Study Abroad in the IUPUI Office of International Affairs. That office will provide information and will shepherd the proposal through the OSAC approval process. The Director can be reached at abroad@iupui.edu or 317-278-0716.

When considering the development of an international experience it is important to know whether or not the destination country is under a US Department of State travel warning. For the list of travel warnings please see http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html. IU has a policy that it does not support student travel to countries under travel warnings. Details of this policy are available at http://www.indiana.edu/~overseas/policies/safety/safety_tw.shtml. It is possible to request an exemption to the IU travel warning policy. Exemptions require approval by the Safety and Responsibility Committee of the OSAC. Decisions for exemptions will be based on

the nature of the Travel Warning, including the locations most impacted by the Warning, the experience and training of program organizers and local support staff, the importance and academic relevance of student involvement, what the program will do to minimize the risk to students, the extent of the safety and security orientation provided and the program's willingness to get the students' informed consent regarding participation, despite the Travel Warning.

Individual Students Pursuing International Educational Activities

There are also instances in which individual IUSM medical students pursue international educational opportunities where the medical student is expecting or intending to participate in clinical activities or care delivery. This section applies to such individual international educational activities. ***Because OSAC does not review individual applications for international travel experience, all such travel must be preapproved by the IUSM Associate Dean for Student Affairs and IUSM Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education.*** Information about the process of approval may be obtained by contacting the Director of Medical Student Records at (317) 274-1970.

When applying for approval, the following issues should be addressed:

Support Structures

- 1) Is there sufficient support on the ground to assist a medical student in adjusting culturally, personally and professionally to the location abroad?
- 2) Is there a support system in place for the student should the student experience a crisis abroad?
- 3) Does the student know who to contact if they have a crisis?
- 4) Does the student have the assistance necessary to organize housing and local transportation?

Preparation

- 1) Has the student received adequate preparation to adapt to the new cultural context?
- 2) Has the student received adequate preparation to adapt to the new medical context?
- 3) Has the student reviewed the Association of American Medical Colleges guidelines for providing care abroad? Please see -

<https://www.aamc.org/download/181690/data/guidelinesforstudentsprovidingpatientcare.pdf>

- 4) Has the student explored visa and entry requirements for the host country?
- 5) Has the student completed necessary IU paperwork including emergency contact information and waiver and release forms?
- 6) Has the student reviewed the pre-departure information provided by the IUPUI Office of International Affairs? Please see – <http://abroad.iupui.edu>?

Insurance Coverage

- 1) Does the student have insurance that will cover them for medical, medical evacuation, and repatriation expenses abroad?
- 2) Does the student have professional liability insurance coverage (or the equivalent) where required or appropriate?
- 3) Does the student have legal or other such authorization to engage in clinical activities or care delivery?

Safety/Security/Health

- 1) Has the student reviewed the US Department of State country specific information sheet(s) for the country(ies) to which they will travel? Please see: http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html
- 2) If the student is a US citizen have they registered with the US Embassy through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)? Please see - <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>
- 3) Has the student reviewed the Centers for Disease Control recommendations for travel for the country(ies) to which they will travel? Please see - <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.aspx>
- 4) Has the student spoken with colleagues at the host institution/organization to identify any specific health, safety or security issues for the areas to which they will travel?
- 5) Has the student reviewed news sources in the host country to identify potential health/safety/security issues?