

Frequently Asked Questions International Internship Program – PUBLIC HEALTH

What is the Samaritan's Purse International Public Health Internship Program?

The International Public Health Internship Program was established by the Samaritan's Purse Projects Department in 2009 for the following purposes:

- To give International Emergency Medicine physicians and Master's of Public Health students/graduates exposure to international relief & development
- To provide specific opportunities to participate in international public health programs

Who qualifies for the program?

The program is designed for individuals who demonstrate the following:

- Solid Christian testimony and understanding of the basis of salvation
- Biblical training
- Frequent, regular involvement in church and/or missions
- Maturity and leadership
- Previous international experience and cultural sensitivity
- Calling to Christian relief & development
- Current enrollment in or graduation from a Master's of Public Health program
- Experiences that reflect interest in public health
- Technical skills and/or knowledge relevant to public health
- Reporting and research skills
- Ability to speak and write in English
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Ability to be organized and detail-oriented
- Foreign language fluency for certain assignments (e.g. Latin America)
- Solid Christian and professional references
- Willingness to serve where needed

Preferred additional qualification:

- Background in Emergency Medicine

Do you have to be a United States citizen in order to apply?

There are no citizenship restrictions. Individuals of any nationality may apply as long as they meet the criteria outlined above.

Can individuals who are married or who have children apply?

Placement of couples and/or families depends, in part, on the assignment locations and whether or not a hosting field office has the capacity to provide the needed living arrangements. Due to the short-term and sometimes transient nature of intern assignments and the fact that some locations are either unsafe or unsuitable for children, some assignments may not be appropriate for families. Samaritan's Purse is unable to provide childcare services.

How do I apply for an internship?

You may download an internship application as either a PDF File or a Fillable Word Document on the Samaritan's Purse Web site and return it to Mr. Terry Harmon, Field Support Unit Manager via e-mail (tharmon@samaritan.org), via fax at 828-266-1049, or via regular mail (Samaritan's Purse, P. O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607).

Please attach a cover letter specifically stating that you are applying for a PUBLIC HEALTH internship.

What is the deadline for applying?

Due to the large volume of applications that we receive, in order to maximize processing and review time as well as placement consideration, we recommend that you submit an application 3 to 9 months in advance. Generally speaking, the earlier an application is received, the better the chance for placement. Later applicants may find that all available slots have been filled by the time their applications have been received. We recommend that you submit an application in either October (if you wish to begin an internship between January and June) or April (if you wish to begin an internship between July and December).

What is the selection process?

Applicants are narrowed to groups of finalists. A limited number of those finalists will then be selected for telephone interviews. Intern placements will be determined upon completion of interviews.

Where are interns assigned? Can they choose their assignment locations?

Locations may vary from year to year, and hosting field offices are selected on the following criteria:

- Field offices must have staff who are capable of leading, directing, training, and mentoring interns, both professionally and spiritually
- Field offices must have programs that encompass public health sectors of relief & development in order to give interns broad-based exposure to the work of Samaritan's Purse

Applicants are welcome to state preferences for particular countries, world regions, or people groups, but Samaritan's Purse will determine final placements. We ask all applicants to be willing to serve where most needed.

Who do interns work with?

Interns work alongside seasoned field staff, including other expatriates and national staff. The number of co-workers will depend on the assigned location and the size of its associated projects.

What does an intern do?

Under the guidance of existing staff, interns gain knowledge of Samaritan's Purse relief & development activities, including operational methods, management techniques, and organizational philosophy, policies, procedures, and practices. Depending on current projects and interns' outside educational requirements, interns will potentially be provided the opportunity to work with programs that address the following areas: public and community health, nutrition, emergency food, assessment and surveillance of refugee populations and internally displaced people (IDPs), epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of communicable diseases, and participation with local hospitals/clinics (including medical care by interns who are also physicians). Interns will perform baseline assessments and analysis related to vulnerable and at-risk populations and will assist Samaritan's Purse with programmatic monitoring, evaluation, and documentation as well as the creation, funding, and implementation of new projects.

What else is expected of interns?

In most cases, interns interact with the local church, government officials, community leaders, and other non-governmental organizations and are expected to maintain a strong Christian witness to colleagues, beneficiaries, and the general public. Interns must be able to communicate and interact well with people of different cultural, educational, socio-economic, and linguistic backgrounds; be able to work under difficult, intense, and austere conditions; be good stewards of resources; possess a strong work ethic; and demonstrate adaptability, consistency, patience, and servants' hearts. Interns are required to report monthly to the Field Support Unit Manager, describing what projects they have participated in, lessons learned, etc.

What expenses are associated with the program and who pays them?

Samaritan's Purse generally pays a minimal stipend, provides airfare and travel insurance coverage, and pays for immunization and travel document expenses. However, these details may need to be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of all parties involved. The host field office covers all ministry-related expenses, including housing, meals, and local transportation.

How are travel arrangements handled?

The Projects Department's Field Support Unit arranges transportation to orientation and to the international assignment locations. Interns are responsible for transportation between their homes and departure airports. The Field Support Unit will coordinate with the host field office regarding in-country arrangements.

What pre-departure arrangements need to be made?

All international assignments require a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the projected return date. Interns are responsible for acquiring their passports. Some countries also require an entry visa. The Field Support Unit will assist with obtaining visas.

Interns begin their assignments by attending an organizational orientation and finance training at the Samaritan's Purse international headquarters in Boone, North Carolina and depart for the field immediately afterward.

Interns will receive detailed information regarding immunizations and medications at least 30 days prior to the orientation session in North Carolina.

Although Samaritan's Purse will provide travel insurance coverage for interns while they are serving outside of their home countries, interns must provide proof of personal insurance that covers them while inside their countries of citizenship.

Can interns continue working with Samaritan's Purse after their assignments?

Although future employment is not promised or guaranteed, the internship program is one method of recruitment for international field staff (IFS), and interns who have successfully completed the program are welcome to apply for longer term international employment with Samaritan's Purse.

If you have other questions, please contact:

Mr. Terry Harmon
Field Support Unit Manager
tharmon@samaritan.org
(828) 262-1980