

International Electives Policy

1. Maximum elective credit of one block (4 weeks). A student may elect to spend more than one block (4 weeks) abroad in a medical education environment; however, only 1 block (4 weeks) of credit will be issued. Global Health Track students may take up to 8 weeks of international rotations.
2. The rotation must be scheduled with a hospital health center, or medical clinic. Exceptions to this must be appealed to the regional campus Student Services Dean and the Vice Dean for Education and Academic Affairs.
3. Evaluation forms for the student may not be completed by a relative or someone who has a potential conflict of interest (e.g., a student's treating physician or close family friend).
4. All WVU medical students who are scheduled to travel abroad must complete a pre-travel meeting with the Global Health Program. Topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to, travel safety; potential risks to the health and safety of patients, students, and the community while abroad and in the clinical environment; availability of emergency care; the possibility and response to natural disasters, political instability, and exposure to disease; the need for any additional preparation prior to, support during, and follow-up after the elective; the level and quality of required supervision; potential challenges to the code of medical ethics adopted by the home school; student insurance; repatriation; language, and cultural environment, etc.
5. The student must also meet with a provider from the University Health Services or a Global Health Program approved travel clinic, at his/her own expense, to review appropriate immunizations and travel medications.
6. If it becomes apparent through warnings from the U.S. State Department, CDC, or other recognized group that this is an unsafe area to travel, the Global Health Office and Student Services office may cancel the trip at any time prior to or during the rotation, which may include calling students back to the United States. A make-up rotation(s) will be identified in a timely way to fulfill graduation requirements.

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LCME Element 11.3 Oversight of Extramural Electives

If a medical student at a medical school is permitted to take an elective under the auspices of another medical school, institution, or organization, a centralized system exists in the dean's office at the home school to review the proposed extramural elective prior to approval and to ensure the return of a performance assessment of the student and an evaluation of the elective by the student. Information about such issues as the following are available, as appropriate, to the student and the medical school in order to inform the student's and the school's review of the experience prior to its approval:

- Potential risks to the health and safety of patients, students, and the community
- The availability of emergency care
- The possibility of natural disasters, political instability, and exposure to disease
- The need for additional preparation prior to, support during, and follow-up after the elective
- The level and quality of supervision
- Any potential challenges to the code of medical ethics adopted by the home school