International Practicum

Office of Public Health Practice

Janelle Rios, PhD: Director
Holly Cieslikowski: Project Specialist
Laura Rademacher: MEd: Educational Programs Coordinator II

Contact: Practicum@uth.tmc.edu

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Agenda

This presentation will cover

• Overview and Timeline for International Practicum
• International Preceptor Agreements
• International Travel Approval and Resources
• Learning Contract Approval
Alison Winters
Uganda
Safe Mothers, Safe Babies

Nathanael Phillips
Guatemala
Adonai International

Photo Credit: Alison Winters

Photo Credit: Nathaniel Phillips
What is a International Practicum?

International Practicum:
A practicum that requires the student to travel outside the United States to complete either all or part of the experience.
Approvals for International Practicumum

- Preceptor Agreements
- Travel Approvals
- Learning Contract
Who Oversees What?

Office of Public Health Practice
- Practicum program
- Learning contracts

UTHealth Travel
- Travel policies
- Corporate Travel Planners (airfare)
- International SOS

Office of Global Health Initiatives
- Travel to restricted countries
- International agreements

Office of International Affairs
- Immigrant and non-immigrant visa requirements

Office of Public Health Practice = Practicum Office
## Approval Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Approval Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Agreements</td>
<td>~ 4-6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Travel</td>
<td>~ 4-8 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Contract</td>
<td>~ 1 week</td>
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**International Practicum Timeline**

- **12-7 months prior**
  - Find & plan international practicum

- **6 months prior**
  - Notify OPHP of your plans for an international practicum
  - Submit travel
  - Obtain personal travel documents, vaccines

- **2 months prior**
  - Submit final learning contract

- **1 month prior**
  - Register

**OPHP = Office of Public Health Practice = Practicum Office**
International Agreements for Practicum
International Preceptor Agreements

For international preceptors, Office of Global Health Initiates negotiates a

- **Memorandum of Understanding**
  Establishes a collaborative relationship with the international organization

- **Program Agreement**
  Establishes UTHealth’s and the organization’s rights and responsibilities
Preceptor Agreements

Student
- Notifies practicum about international practicum
- Provides information about the organization and project

OPHP
- Completes a request form for an international collaboration
- Submits request to OGHI
- Reviews draft agreements

OGHI
- Drafts agreements using request form
- Negotiates any changes to agreements with preceptor
- Obtains signatures on final agreements

OPHP = Office of Public Health Practice = Practicum Office
OGHI = Office of Global Health Initiatives
Information Needed For Request Form

Organization

• Official name of practicum host site
• Type of organization
• Brief description of organization and advantages they offer
• English language website (if available)

English-Speaking Preceptor or Contact

• Name
• E-mail

Project

• Brief description of the project (or learning contract)
• Lodging and day-to-day transportation during practicum
• How you found this project
Preceptor Agreements

Request form is reviewed and signed by
- Director Janelle Rios, PhD
- Department Chair
- Dean Eric Boerwinkle, PhD

Final agreements are signed by
- Authorized representatives for preceptor (2)
- Dean Eric Boerwinkle, PhD
- President Giuseppe Colasurdo, MD
- Vice President of Research & Technology Bruce Butler, PhD
International Travel Approvals
International Travel Approvals

All international travel for practicum
  ✓ Office of Public Health Practice Director (Dr. Rios)
  ✓ School of Public Health Dean’s Office

Travel lasting > 29 days
  ✓ President’s Office

Travel to restricted countries
  ✓ Office of Global Health Initiatives
Travel Approval Documents

All International Travel

- Student International Travel for Practicum Application form
- Request for Travel Authorization
- Travel advisory level(s) (screen shots)
- International SOS registration (screen shots)
- Travel agenda
- Flight itinerary
- Learning contract

Travel to a Restricted Country (if applicable)

- Application for Exemption from Travel Restrictions (screen shot)
- Approved International Travel Release of Liability & Waiver of Claims
Travel Advisories

• Check travel advisories on the U.S. Department of State website.

• Print travel advisory levels for your practicum travel destinations, including connecting flights.

• Check for status changes until your departure.

• If the your one of your business travel destinations or connections is assigned a travel warning prior to your departure, contact the Office of Global Health Initiatives for guidance and copy the Office of Public Health Practice.
Travel to Restricted Countries

If traveling to a country under a travel warning for your practicum, submit an Exemption from Travel Restrictions application.

- Application is reviewed by Office of Global Health Initiatives (~2-3 weeks).
- If the exemption is approved, complete an International Travel Release of Liability and Waiver of Claims.
Travel Warnings

The U.S. Department of State recently revised its travel advisory classification system.

Follow the old policy until we receive further instructions from Office of Global Health Initiatives.

Refer to the list of travel warnings current as of January 9, 2018, until further notice.
Office of Global Health Initiatives

Contact for Travel Restriction Approvals:

E-mail: global.health@uth.tmc.edu

Contact: Graciette.Marques-Tavares@uth.tmc.edu

Phone: (713) 500-3533
You **must** use Corporate Travel Planners (CTP) to book your airfare if UTHealth is funding your trip or reimbursing you for any part of your trip.

- Contact CTP to book your airfare: 866-366-1142
- If you find a cheaper airfare on your own, quote this rate to the CTP representative
International SOS (ISOS)

What is International SOS?

- 24-hour medical and emergency response organization
- Provides security reports, medical services, and travel services during your business travel
- Provides assistance at no cost to students while on university business

Practicum = University Business
ISOS Services

Medical Services
- Pre-trip health information (e.g. vaccination and medical alerts)
- Assistance in finding health care providers and hospitals
- Access to remote-site medical clinics
- Dispatch of medication and medical supplies
- Medical claims assistance
- Medical monitoring
- Emergency medical evacuation assistance
- Repatriation of mortal remains

Security Services
- Online travel security information
- Access to security crisis centers
- Safety/Security evacuation assistance

Travel Services
- Lost document assistance (passport, visa)
- Legal referrals
- Translations and interpreters
My Trips Registration in ISOS


2. Log in with UT System’s membership #: 11BSGC000037.

3. Click on My Trips.

4. Register as a new user.

5. Log in with your UTHealth e-mail address.
My Trips Registration in ISOS

6. Complete your profile record.
7. Include a contact number for your travel.
8. Enter your flights and lodging details for your university travel segment(s).
9. Print the screen that shows your name and contact phone number.
10. Print the My Trips screen.

Entering your travel and phone number will enable ISOS to get in touch with you in case of an emergency!
ISOS Emergency Record

1. From the ISOS homepage, click on Emergency Record.

2. Set up a log in and password.

3. Enter emergency contacts (at least 1 contact in U.S. is recommended).

4. Entering medical information or completing the emergency record is not required to receive travel approval.
ISOS for Personal Travel

• ISOS coverage extends for ~1 week before/after your documented university business (practicum).

• ISOS coverage is available at a discounted rate for traveling companions or for students traveling abroad for leisure.

• Click on Personal Travel in ISOS if you are interested in learning more about this coverage. (Not required).
Create a Travel Agenda

• Create a detailed travel agenda.
• List start-end dates for each leg of your trip.
• Include a short description next to each stop.
• Use “vacation” or “personal” for stops not related to university business.
• Include connecting flights.
Complete and sign the **Student International Travel for Practicum Application** form.

Office of Public Health Practice completes section II.
E-mail Travel Forms

E-mail these forms to practicum@uth.tmc.edu:

✓ Student International Travel for Practicum Application
✓ Travel agenda
✓ Application for Exemption from Travel Restrictions (if applicable) screen shot or e-mail to OGHI
✓ International SOS printouts
✓ Flight itinerary including connecting flights
✓ Learning Contract
Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) completes a **Request for Travel Authorization** (RTA) form

- OPHP will e-mail you the RTA
- You review and sign RTA as traveler
- OPHP will obtain the other required signatures (Dean’s & President’s offices)
- OPHP will return a fully signed RTA to you
# International Travel Resources

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| Visas, passports, other travel documents                | 1.) [Travel.State.gov website](https://travel.state.gov)  
2.) Embassy or consulate for destination                |
| Security information and travel advisories              | 1.) [Travel State.gov website](https://travel.state.gov)  
2.) [International SOS](https://www.internationalsos.com) |
| Vaccine and health alerts                               | 1.) [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov/travel)  
[Traveler’s Health](https://www.cdc.gov/travel)  
2.) [International SOS](https://www.internationalsos.com) |
Office of International Affairs (OIA) provides assistance to international students with immigrant and non-immigrant visa applications.

If you are an international student,

• consult with OIA about your practicum and travel plans;

• request assistance with any requirements to gain re-entry to the U.S. after your travel (visa stamps, valid passports).
Go to the international travel webpage at https://sph.uth.edu/practicum/.

- Review the step-by-step instructions.
- Download travel forms.

International Travel Guidelines for Practicum Students

Students traveling internationally for their practicum must submit travel documents for review and approval. Please contact our office at practicum@uth.tmc.edu as soon as possible if you are planning an international practicum—even if your final travel plans are not yet confirmed. Approvals for international travel can take several weeks.

1. Read and follow the Student International Travel Requirements.
3. If you are an international student, consult with your international advisor about your practicum and your travel plans.
4. Check the U.S. Department of State’s list of Travel Warnings for each country that you’re traveling to, including any stopovers/connections for your flight.
Learning Contract Approval
Learning contracts for international practicums follow the same approval process as domestic practicum projects.

Choose “international” as your preceptor’s setting.

Include a copy of your learning contract with your travel paperwork.
Peter James Elyanu
Uganda
Makerere University

Katie Kimbrough
South Africa
Child Health Family International

Photo Credit: Peter James Elyanu

Photo Credit: Katie Kimbrough
Linda Garcia
Nicaragua
Baylor College of Medicine

Hanna Blaney
India
Bharati Integrated Development Society (BIRDS)
Questions?

Please e-mail any questions about your practicum to Practicum@uth.tmc.edu.

This mailbox is checked regularly and is the quickest and most reliable way to receive a reply to your question.
Thank You!

Thank you for attending this workshop!
Please feel to reach out to us with your questions and comments.
Acknowledgments

Photos in this presentation were pulled from e-Mag articles contributed by the students listed below. The Office of Public Health Practice thanks these students for sharing their practicum experiences and photos!

1. **Alison Winters.** “Global Health Experience from Austin, Texas.” *Student Practicum Experiences. Summer 2012-Regional Campuses.*


5. **Linda Garcia.** “Investigation into the Etiology of an Outbreak of Unexplained Kidney Disease in Nicaraguan Sugarcane Workers.” *Student Practicum Experiences. Fall 2015-Regional Campuses.*