



Feel the Passion

Make a Difference

Change the World

USF HEALTH OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



What is Public Health?

It is your health and your chance to change the world.

- Donna J. Petersen, MHS, ScD , Dean, USF College of Public Health



International Field Experience Student in Haiti

International Field Experience

As part of the degree program, Master of Public Health students may choose a mentored international field experience, whereby theory learned in the classroom is applied in resource-poor settings. Students gain experience in core areas of public health—epidemiology and biostatistics, health policy and management, environmental health, community and family health. Students may choose sites currently approved by the College. Field Experience sites approved by the College include Panama, Mexico, India, Malaysia, Africa and Ecuador, or students may select a site and submit for College approval.

Master's International Peace Corps

Life is calling. How far will you go?

Master's International Peace Corps students gain significant international practical experience and knowledge working in developing countries, thereby enhancing their marketability for employment upon graduation. Students begin studies on campus, and then serve abroad with the Peace Corps for 27 months before returning to campus to complete graduation requirements for a Master of Public Health degree. As an incentive, the College provides tuition and fee waivers for nine credit hours for the required Field Experience and the Special Project.



Master's International Peace Corps Student in Kenya

International Health Service Collaborative

Sustainable Health for the Underserved

Through interdisciplinary interaction, the International Health Service Collaborative, comprised of USF Health students and faculty, promotes sustainable health projects in underserved communities within the U.S. and developing nations.

USF Health students and faculty are committed to health service for the underserved. Students develop cultural competency in health promotion and healthcare, benefit from opportunities for professional development and networking, and gain first-hand experience in underserved communities.



International Health Service Collaborative Student in the Dominican Republic

Global Health Student Association

Public health has become a global discipline with health issues and their determinants spanning geopolitical boundaries. The Global Health Student Association provides College of Public Health students, with an interest in Global Health, the opportunity to increase their knowledge of international health issues through interaction with outside experts, faculty, staff and each other.



Global Health Student Association members in the Dominican Republic

At USF Health we are preparing the future leaders of the global health revolution today. Our students come with a new level of enthusiasm and our faculty is responding by reaching out to all corners of the globe to create a learning experience like no other.

Come discover, grow and make the world a better place with us.



“Health is, after all, a human right, a prerequisite and resource for human development and growth, something everyone wants and can agree upon... Health could be the point of commonality, a peacemaker in the world today.”

- Ann DeBaldo, PhD
Associate Vice President, International Programs, USF Health
Associate Dean, International Programs, College of Public Health

Feel the passion, make a difference, change the world.

“You become aware that one person can truly make a difference. You leave a part of yourself behind and bring back the spirit of the people. All of a sudden you are a changed person and you never even knew a change was coming. Going abroad, anywhere abroad, is the best education you will ever receive.”

**College of Public Health Student
Department of Global Health**

“An international field experience is no ordinary study abroad program; it is an opportunity to grow personally and professionally. Not only did my internship with the Pan American Health Organization’s Regional Program on Dengue exceed my expectations, but the cultural experience of living in Panama and the confidence I gained from my stay there are invaluable benefits. Being able to make such a contribution during this experience has expanded my view on what an individual can accomplish in public health.”

**MPH Student
Department of Global Health**



“While all of us were in the Dominican Republic to accomplish our goal of administering the surveys, the carefree and lighthearted atmosphere made us feel as though we were on a relaxing vacation. We learned more than just about the current water situation that exists in resource-poor areas: we brought back with us lasting impressions and memories of an immensely generous culture. In the end, all of us students received more from the Dominican people than we would ever be able to offer them in return.”

**Thesis Honors Students
Global Health Student Association**

“My International Field Experience at Gorgas Memorial Research Institute in Panama was very interesting, to say the least. I went on field excursions and ended up working in Immunology on clinical diagnostic tests for many diseases of public health I importance in Panama, such as HIV, Herpes Simplex Viruses, Dengue, Leptospira, Hantavirus, Influenza and others.”

MPH Student

“My biggest takeaway was the realization of how happy and giving people can be—even though, through our [American] eyes, they are living in poverty.”

**Master’s International
Peace Corps Student**

“My courses at the College of Public Health have given me a solid basis in public health practice. It is very gratifying to see and apply during this international field experience, the concepts, principles, and strategies I have learned at USF.”

International Field Experience Student

About the Office of International Programs

USF Health's Office of International Programs establishes study abroad, service learning, and field placement sites for USF Health students. Our students have conducted field work in a wide range of countries, including Panama, India, Venezuela, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Costa Rica, Barbados, Bolivia, the Philippines, Thailand, South Africa and Ethiopia.

For international students studying at USF Health, the Office of International Programs facilitates transitions by negotiating obstacles and connecting new students with mentors. In addition, the Office advises on strategies to bring potential global partners together to develop and implement agreements for international education and research projects. Workshops and seminars promote skills needed for success in the global arena, including cultural competency, safety, leadership, and ethics.



International Field Experience Students in Honduras

USF Health is dedicated to creating a model of health care based on understanding the full spectrum of health. It includes the University of South Florida's colleges of medicine, nursing, and public health; the schools of biomedical sciences as well as physical therapy & rehabilitation sciences; and the USF Physicians Group. With more than \$360 million in research grants and contracts last year, USF is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of 39 community-engaged, four-year public universities designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

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