



Global Health Summer Scholarship Program

Program Description & Requirements 2025

Description of Scholarship

The Global Health Summer Scholarship supports medical student projects in the global health setting. The scholarship provides funding for first-year B.U. medical students to undertake research, language immersion, or community health projects during the summer between first- and second-year. The project/program must be completed in a low- or middle-income country (LMIC).

Time Requirements:

- Research projects must be at least 7-weeks of full-time work (more is encouraged).
- Community health projects must be at least 6 weeks in length.
- Language immersion programs must be at least 4 weeks in length.
- There is some flexibility for items #2 and #3 depending on each situation.

Each award is up to \$3750 with awards ranging from \$1000 (e.g., 4-week medical Spanish program) to \$3750 (e.g., 7 weeks of research in LMIC). Each application is committee-reviewed and the amount awarded to each student is dependent upon the scope of the project, site location, time of project/program, and budget outlined by applicant. Funding is weighted toward longer time in country and locations with which BUSM has a prior established relationship.

Students must be in good academic standing (see requirements below) to receive the scholarship. The scholarship is paid to the student as a non-service stipend at the end of May. Non-service stipends are not considered wages (they are not taxed); they are intended to help recipients defray living or other expenses. Stipend recipients will not receive a 1099 tax form at end of the year, and they are responsible for independently reporting the income to IRS if they are required to do so based on their tax profile. The stipends are also not considered estimated financial aid because students do not receive federal financial aid during the period when the research program is held (a period of non-enrollment).

Application Due Date

- March 1, 2025

Support from Other Sources

GH Summer Scholarships are granted to those students who are in financial need and who would otherwise not be able to undertake their projects without the support of this program. While funding from multiple sources is encouraged, the total amount of support granted to a student should not exceed the amount required to undertake the experience. E.g., if a student is entirely funded by a private foundation, he/she should not apply for the GH Summer Scholarship.

Academic/Procedural Requirements of the Student

If you receive a scholarship, you must meet the following requirements.

1. You must be in good academic standing (perform at a passing level in all courses) and eligible for promotion to the second year. For funding purposes, the research committee will prioritize applications from students who are in good standing, without remediation, after discussion with SEIC (Student Early Identification Committee).
2. You must complete your project/program for the length of time specified in your application. If your plans change, you may be required to return the funds received or a corresponding percentage of these funds.
3. You must complete the items listed in 'Required Responsibilities of Student Before Departure' (below) prior to departure.
4. You must submit the following documents to Ana Gregory by August 1:
 - 1-2 page summary report of your experience
 - Thank you note addressed to the donor who funded your experience
 - Completed evaluation of your experience
5. If you undertake research, you are welcome to present a poster at the Medical Student Research Symposium held annually in January/February (not mandatory).

Required Responsibilities of Student Before Departure

If you receive a scholarship, you must complete the following list of responsibilities **prior to departure**.

1. Immunize Yourself & Review PEP Guidelines

Make an appointment with the BMC Travel Clinic or a clinic of your choice. Your appointment should be at least 3 months before departure for vaccinations to take effect. Contact your insurance carrier before making an appointment to see what is covered. For students with Aetna Student Health (B.U. health plan): Do not make an appointment for this purpose with BU Student Health Services as they do not handle these types of appointments. If you plan to use the BMC Travel Clinic, your physical exam may not be covered by Aetna if you have already had an exam by your primary care physician during the same calendar year.

[Review guidelines](#) for blood-borne pathogen exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and discuss this with your physician during your travel clinic appointment. If you are going to a site where PEP will not be available, ask for a PEP prescription from your physician. See page 2 of this document for pre-travel preparation.

2. Review International Medical and Evacuation Insurance & Download App

As a BU student undertaking BU-sponsored travel, you are automatically covered by BU's international medical and evacuation insurance through International SOS which provides travel assistance services. This program is designed to keep you healthy, safe and secure while you are traveling abroad. Before departure, **download the app to your phone here:**

- [International SOS](#) – The app provides “access to vital information on your current location or travel destination, including country guides and information about ongoing and developing medical and security situations.”

See [Global Program Health & Insurance](#) for more info on the medical and evacuation insurance coverage.

3. Attend Pre-Departure Session with Dr. Leanza

Dr. Leanza will meet with all scholars in April/May to discuss preparation of your trip. You will be informed of this session by [Ana Gregory](#).

4. Register Your Travel Plans with BU and the State Department

- [Register with the BU International Travel Registry](#)
In accordance with the BU International Travel Risk Policy, medical students are required to register their travel before undertaking any university-sponsored international travel. The Registry enables emergency communication between you and BU while you are abroad.
- [Register with U.S. State Department Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#), a free service that allows U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trips with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. This allows the US Embassy to contact travelers in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency. It will also help family and friends contact the traveler in an emergency.

5. Research Your Destination

Visit these web sites for country-specific information:

- [U.S. Department of State](#). Check this site periodically before departure. Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine will not give credit or support to a medical student in a country where a Dept. of State Travel Warning is in effect.
- [Students Abroad](#). (U.S. Department of State)
- [CDC](#). Review travel notices for your destination country: country description (government, language, climate), local laws and customs, safety (e.g., using public transport, using currency), food and water, etc.