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 (i.e. French, Spanish, or Portuguese) fluency for certain assignments
➢ 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?

Married couples have served as interns in the past, but placement depends, in part, on the assignment locations and whether or not a hosting field office has the capacity to accommodate a couple in terms of living arrangements. In a situation where a couple would like to serve, both spouses must apply and be accepted as interns. It is not possible for an intern to be accompanied by a non-intern spouse. 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, internships generally are not appropriate avenues of service 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 Alexa Gerbrands, Global Intern Coordinator via e-mail (internships@samaritan.org), via fax at 828-266-1038, 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 an ACCOUNTING internship. Also, please attach a copy of your resume/CV.

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, you must submit your application no later than OCTOBER 1 (if you wish to begin an internship between January and June) and no later than APRIL 1 (if you wish to begin an internship between July and December).

What is the selection process?

The Projects Department receives and reviews all internship applications. Applicants are narrowed to groups of finalists and sent for additional review to international field offices that have requested interns. A limited number of those finalists will then be selected for telephone interviews with the Country Director and/or other management. 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’
Interns may be required by their hosting field offices to submit monthly reports describing what projects they have participated in, lessons learned, successes, challenges, etc.

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

Samaritan's Purse pays a minimal monthly stipend, provides airfare and travel insurance coverage, and pays for required immunizations and medications, visas, and all other 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 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 and paying for 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 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:

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