

McMaster Pediatric Training Program International Electives

INTRODUCTION

McMaster's pediatric residency and fellowship programs recognize the value in international elective experiences during training, and the growing interest in integration of global child health with career decisions.

Two travel bursaries of \$2000 each will be given each year (dependent upon availability of funds) to trainees who demonstrate a thoughtful approach to pursuing an elective opportunity in global child health with specifically defined objectives, and appropriate preparations with an identified supervisor in the host country. Preference will be given to candidates who show insight into the potential challenges of such an experience, and have demonstrated preparation in this regard.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Information about global health electives can be found through a number of avenues including:

- University of Ottawa online modules: <http://www.actionglobalhealth.ca>
- DepartSmart: <https://departsmart.org/>
- <https://sugarprep.org/s-prep/>
- Through local global health advisors including, Drs Pernica, Merali, Hunter and Barr.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. The bursary is open to current McMaster pediatric residents (PGY2-PGY3), subspecialty residents or fellows in good program standing.
2. The resident/fellow must have a defined supervisor in the host country willing to formally evaluate them while abroad.
3. The resident/fellow must identify a McMaster faculty mentor to ensure all appropriate pre-travel arrangements have been made, including thoughtful preparation for a new learning environment. Consider contacting Drs. Pernica, Merali, Hunter or Barr if you are having difficulty establishing an appropriate mentor.
4. Successful candidates will be required to submit a brief written report (2-3 pages) upon their return summarizing their learning experiences which could be shared with other interested trainees for future elective opportunities. Recipients will also be required to present at Pediatric Grand Rounds and prepare a poster at the annual Child Health Research Day.

ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Content must relate to child health (clinical, research or combined focus)
- Timeframe must be comprised of a minimum of a **6-8 week** elective block
- Located in a **low or middle income country (LMIC)**.
LMIC as defined by the World Bank - <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups>

- Consideration will be given to electives in remote Canadian indigenous communities

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Please submit a written application (1000 words maximum) including ALL of the following:

- Name, contact information, current residency year
- Trainee advisor's name
- Name of McMaster faculty mentor for this elective
- Name and contact information of host country supervisor, elective location (and university affiliation, if applicable)
- Dates of proposed elective
- Curriculum vitae
- Overview of the proposed elective (region, facility, work, specialty etc)
- Why the elective has been selected.
- Include clearly defined, specific objectives (ie. what are the 3 – 5 most important things you hope to learn from this experience?)
- Challenges that may be encountered during the elective, and how they might be managed.
- Summary of prior experiences (if any) that have impacted an interest in global child health.
- Reflection on how the elective will impact your future practice as a pediatrician?
- How you will bring your experiences back to your practice/peers/volunteer work etc in Canada upon your return.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

The application must be submitted by January 1 for the core PGY2 or PGY3 residents/, subspecialty and fellow years 1 and 2. Applications will be reviewed by February 28 and residents notified of their award by April 1 to allow planning and scheduling for the upcoming PGY3 or PGY4, or corresponding years for subspecialty residents and fellows.

REVIEW PROCESS:

Faculty members from the International Child Health group and the Postgraduate Education Committee will review all applications based on the criteria listed above.

PROVISION OF FUNDS:

An award of \$ 2000 will be provided to support travel expenses. Following the elective, original receipts will be required. If an elective is longer than 8 weeks additional funding for the resident will be considered.

TRAVEL PREPARATIONS TO INCLUDE:

- Valid passport and visa for any countries to be visited.
- Valid health care insurance for travel
- Required and recommended vaccines for travel to the host country.
 - PHAC Travel Health Site: www.travelhealth.gc.ca
 - CDC (US) Travel Health: www.cdc.gov/travel
- Appropriate medical approval/licensing for practice as a trainee in the host country

Other Sources of Funding:

Candidates are also encouraged to apply for other grants to support their elective including:

- American Academy of Pediatrics International Elective Award:
<https://fs25.formsite.com/aapmembership/form244/index.html>
- Don and Elizabeth Hillman International Child Health Grant:
<https://www.cps.ca/en/grants-bourses/don-elizabeth-hillman-international-child-health>

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Drs. Pernica, Merali and Barr