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WHO WE ARE

MISSION STATEMENT

To be the best travel abroad placement provider in Africa: Redefining Education Travel

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to connect students and volunteers with meaningful learning opportunities and leave a positive impact in the local community.

VALUES

Customer focus
We deliver value that goes beyond our clients’ needs

Flexibility
We push the limits to find solutions because we are unwilling to accept ‘it cannot be done’ as an answer

Passion
We are diligent in honoring commitments to our clients, programs and our brand.

We are family
Working with people is an absolute necessity and we value what each individual brings to the ea family

Professionalism
We strive to learn every aspect of our tasks and take personal responsibility to see efforts through to completion
WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

Supervised Electives

Each placement by Elective Africa will have a supervisor who will be your go to person at the hospital. Upon confirmation of your placement with us, we will contact you to establish your specific interest and objectives.

Supervisors will offer informal & formal mentoring to students while giving students the opportunity to share their skills and participate in continuous medical education (CMEs) forums at the hospital. Our supervisors are keen to provide your school with an evaluation of your placement experience.

Our students have the opportunity to work either in large public or teaching hospitals, private hospitals or choose from community health centers in our rural locations.

We manage our healthcare placements to ensure they meet the requirements of the hospitals and the expectations of the students without jeopardizing patient care or the day-to-day activity of the hospital.

It is important that all our internship students understand both their role and the limitations of these opportunities.

Standard Placement Procedures

Elective Africa incorporates guidelines laid out by universities and schools to ensure that internship placements are structured according to a student’s program objectives, level of clinical skills and the individual’s specific interest.

We work with students and elective coordinators to obtain signed affiliate agreements from the placement hospitals. In addition we assist in obtaining documentation required by a supervisor or preceptor and provide placement confirmation letters.
Health & Safety

Our goal is to ensure each student has a safe and secure placement abroad. We keep abreast of all security developments and provide necessary information in a timely manner. From the moment you land, our staff will be on hand to provide on-program support. Your coordinator will be a great resource as you learn to navigate in your host community and at the hospital.

Our residences are located in walled and guarded compounds in secure neighborhoods. Elective Africa is among the few organizers who provide safe, private transport to and from the hospital. Whether at the hospital or out about town, we are just a call away.
OUR PROGRAM PACKAGE

1. Hospital fees for each student payable to the placement hospital and CTA stamp for Tanzania

2. Personalized elective placement with supervision fees paid to mentors assigned at the hospital

3. Large & secure shared accommodation & with meals

4. Internet connectivity is available at the residence and weekly laundry services

5. Airport transfers

6. Daily morning group one-way trip to the placement hospital

7. Incountry support including our head office teams in your placement locations

8. Detailed pre-departure support
PREDEPARTURE SUPPORT NETWORK

We have a detailed predeparture support network to make sure you are comfortable before you embark on your trip. Upon sign up, you will have access to MyElective, our online portal that has information for your placement. Our head office staff will contact you before you go to make sure you are prepared for your trip and they will be on hand at any time to answer any last minute queries or concerns.

1. You will receive a welcome call from the ground Operations Team. Our Administrators will assist in preparing paperwork for the placement and guidance on visas and flights. Paperwork may include affiliation documents requested by your school for approval of the clinical elective, letters requested by your school as proof of placement acceptance etc.

2. This will be followed by a call 2-3 months before your departure to determine your elective interests & to discuss and determine your objectives for the placement. We will need your school reference letter by this time, as proof of a bona fide student in good standing.

3. One and a half months before departure our Operations Team will liaise with our partner hospitals and confirm your preferred placement and communicate any major changes that may have taken place since the last call.

4. Two weeks before departure you will receive a comprehensive pre-departure call to confirm your flight itinerary, update you on the accommodation setup, and the students you will be joining on the elective. We will also confirm how you will carry your money, the type of clothing to carry to suit the local weather and the hospital requirements.

5. Upon arrival you will be met by our staff at the airport who will take you to our Elective Africa accommodation house for local area orientation. On your first day at the hospital they will assist you on all the registration requirements including work permit if needed.

VISAS, FLIGHTS, INSURANCE & MEDICAL INDEMNITY

As with any other type of travel, an elective abroad calls for necessary precautions. Students are required to make ample arrangements with regard to comprehensive travel insurance to cover health and personal belongings for the duration of your placement.

We work with government hospitals, which have indemnity insurance in place that would cover any of our students officially on placement and under the supervision of the doctors. However it is recommended that students acquire professional indemnity insurance for the duration of the placement.

Our operations team will be at hand to advise you as you arrange for your flights, insurance and visa.
A DAY WITH ELECTIVE AFRICA

“The program was very well organized. We were given an excellent orientation of the hospital and area.”

Simon Ho
- Deakin University

This schedule will vary slightly depending on the institution. Students are encouraged to take different shifts since each offers different learning opportunities and experiences. The morning shift, ideal for students to observe ward rounds is typically from 8 am to 1 pm. However, some surgeries can extend well into the afternoon.

Afternoon shifts are from 3 pm to 8 pm and the night shift goes from 8 pm to 7 am in the morning.

Weekends are usually free so you can have time to shop, go on an excursion organized by your coordinator like sightseeing, hiking etc. or take part in community outreach projects.
7:00 am. Wake up and prepare breakfast with other participants, as you get ready for the day. You may choose to carry a sandwich if you will spend a whole day at the hospital

8:00 am. Driven to the hospital for a morning meeting with the Doctor, Nurse, Consultant in charge

8:30 am. Wards rotations (your choice) based on your interest and arrangements with your mentor

1:00 pm. Lunch break one can decide to either continue at the hospital or leave to do other activities

2:00 pm. Add on activities that can be taken up include Orphanage visit, Tree planting, Community outreach, Teaching at the local school etc.

4:00 pm. Return to the residence & grab a book & a comfortable spot or prepare for your next day until dinner time

6:00 pm. Sit down for dinner with the other participants and enjoy a healthy & authentic local cuisine

7:00 pm. After dinner, enjoy some free time where you will get a change to explore and hang out with other participants or check in with friends and family back home
NUGGET FROM THE SUPERVISORS

"The interns in surgery took me in, pushed me to learn, and encouraged me to participate in procedures in the ward and the operating theatre. You see things and get to do things that would never happen in the developed world and it changes you. Experiencing that and having the support from my supervising interns made Tanzania something I’ll always remember and return to do."

Patrick Hussey – University of Iowa

“Foreign students should expect to learn a lot from their mentor including a wide range of diseases, procedures and conditions. But this would mostly be achieved if they try to at least know, before their respective onset of rotations, the conditions they will be expecting in the wards and outpatient. This includes tropical diseases such as malaria, helminthes, H.I.V and its respective opportunistic infections, respiratory tract infections and other common illnesses.”

Dr. Osbourne Ndalo – Coast General Hospital, Kenya

“I have personally handled different groups of students both medical and pre-medical students from all over the world and it has been quite an experience. What I observed is that students come with zero clues on what to expect yet there is a whole lot of things we expose them to.”

Dr. Jared Ndege – Migori District Hospital, Kenya.
ELECTIVES / INTERNSHIPS

Our elective programs are located in Africa where the medical facilities are greatly under-resourced with daily high patient loads, offering you more opportunities to assist in procedures or examine patients under supervision than back home.

A mentor who is your go-to person while on rotation supervises every elective or internship placement.
The program presents medical students with opportunities to return to basics including diagnosing and treating conditions without the benefits of advanced laboratory services or medical equipment such as CT Scans you have back home.

Due to lack of funds, limited access to health facilities because of distance, and lack of proper education, patients put off treatment, presenting themselves at hospitals with diseases or pathologies that have advanced to the critical stage.

Medical students will encounter opportunities to treat tropical diseases such as malaria, which is a great chance to expand medical knowledge. All these scenarios will teach you new skills and enhance your understanding of diseases progression.

All our medical internship applicants are contacted to confirm the specific department they would like to rotate in so that they get the opportunity in their area of interest.

We have programs for students in their final years of their medical degree i.e. senior medical students, and for junior medical students in their pre-clinical years.

“…At the hospital I saw many illnesses that I would rarely or never see back home and was impressed at how healthcare was delivered despite such limited resources…”

Benjamin Shepherd
– University of Otago
The program has an emphasis on the unique healthcare delivery in developing countries where nurses have more care provider to patient time than any other medical professional.

High patient loads and limited resources particularly in rural areas, requires nurses in Africa to take up tasks beyond traditional nursing duties in the developed world.

Our nursing program provides nursing students a supervised clinical elective in a medical setting usually at a government or community health facility.

You are likely to get an opportunity to assist in a variety of duties.

A lot of your time will be spent in the wards learning from doctors and nurses during rounds, caring for patients and relating with their families.

“You had so much hands on experience in the rural hospital of Migori, Kenya and got an opportunity to do things I would never have the chance to do in Australia. This is by far one of the best things I have done for my Nursing career and would recommend this to any health professional willing to take the next step. I was always made to feel safe at home here in Kenya. It’s truly a life changing experience!”

Alexandria Dawe (RN)  
- Deakins University
One of the busiest departments in any of our partner institutions is Obstetrics and Gynecology. Students will have the opportunity to work with midwives who must juggle several tasks from tending to mothers-to-be, delivering babies, caring for preemies, and assisting new parents.

In addition, midwives in Africa often contend with cases of pregnant mothers with conditions in advanced stages like gestational diabetes, uterine fibroids, and pre-eclampsia that would have been promptly identified and managed if the mother lived in the developed world.

Others may be suffering from diseases prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa like TB, Malaria, and HIV/AIDS.

Students will get to see how midwives manage the delicate balance between providing the best care for mothers and babies under constraints of scarce resources and under-staffing.

“Experiencing the culture of birth in Tanzania was eye-opening and formative, especially coming from a place where labor is feared and epidural rates are very high. I will go home with a new sense of admiration of the strength of women, more confidence with my abilities as a soon-to-be Midwife and with a better understanding of birth in East African context.”

Caitlin MacLennan Penman
- McMaster University
The program is suited for doctors who have finished medical school to polish up on their clinical skills prior to residency.

Doctors in residency can also fulfill an elective abroad or just volunteer their skills to under-served communities.

Residency rotations enable resident physicians immerse not only in different modalities of medical care but also in the culture and traditions of respective countries. International electives expose residents to the treatment of a variety of pathology and diseases found only in certain parts of the world such as tropical diseases.

Our program adopts the Accredited Council for graduate Medical Education (ACGME) competencies framework that includes

- Patient care
- Medical knowledge
- Practice based learning
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Professionalism
- Systems based practice

"This was a great experience and I would repeat it. I wish that I had more time to spend here. I was at Mt. Meru Hospital, Arusha Tanzania for three weeks in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Unit and learnt a lot from the medical staff that I worked with. The hospital conditions are a bit different from what I am used to but the staff did the best that they could with what they had."

Damilola Olupona Nova
Southeastern University-Medicine and Public Health
This program provides students with a clinical training opportunity working closely with and under the supervision of a certified physician to complement the didactic component of physician assistant training. The program is suited to meet requirements such as elective, clinical preceptorship, independent study abroad or internship abroad.

The overwhelming demand for healthcare services in Africa coupled with limited resources provides students a rare opportunity for significant exposure to healthcare in a vastly different setting from their experience at home.

Students can have clinical placement in a government hospital or community health facility.

“I completed the past four weeks at Mt Meru Regional Hospital as my final elective in community medicine. I came into the program with an open mind and the willingness to learn and the program itself exceeded my expectations. I was able to get what I wanted to from the experience at the hospital as well and went through various wards. I know I would have never gotten this experience at home and can go home knowing that this will carry on with me through my career as well.”

Anna Conetta and Steven Haakenson
– Towson/CCBC Essex
"It was a huge learning opportunity to experience a third-world health care system. I was fortunate enough to work with a great surgeon for my four weeks here. Yes, I learned applicable medical and surgical knowledge... The hospital experience in Arusha was grounding, eye-opening, humbling and heart-felt. Not only do you see diagnoses that you won’t see in America, but you realize how much our future profession can be of service worldwide and how many people really need it.”

Laura Teisch
- University of Miami

Our Surgery elective placements take place in poor-resource countries. Students are therefore able to learn more about global healthcare whilst learning and practicing new surgical skills alongside professional’s supervisors from different backgrounds.

Poor road use and ignorance of basic safety measures by road users and pedestrians make Trauma and Emergency surgery one of the busiest units in many hospitals. Some health centers have been known to have wards dedicated to victims of motorcycle carnage. Specialties include general surgery, orthopedic surgery, and pediatric surgery. Students in our rural location will get to see how surgeons practice under stringent conditions.

This unique program offers students a supporting role in patient care including pre-operative evaluation, operative intervention and post-operative care and management.
DENTISTRY

The elective gives students an unparalleled opportunity to gain experience in dentistry in developing countries, which is starkly different to the developed world.

In poorer countries, dental care is expensive and often inaccessible. Many patients lack information on basic oral hygiene and only go to a dentist when their condition becomes unbearable. Students will be exposed to dentistry under adverse conditions like how a dentist establishes the extent of decay when the patient can’t afford x-rays. You will witness far more advanced disease and decay than you’re used to.

Elective students will be introduced to the full range of skills and procedures from history taking and examination, cleaning, scaling to fillings, extractions, composite restorations, aesthetic dentistry and the treatment of gum disease.

“I was stationed at Port Reitz Hospital in Mombasa for just over two weeks the dentists in the dental department at Port Reitz went out of their way to make it a positive and worthwhile learning experience. I was able to acquire hands on experience from the injection and extraction procedures as well as learn and witness first hand how scaling and the production of orthodontic appliances are carried out. Overall Elective Africa was an amazing learning experience that I’ll never forget.”

Aaron Bowyer
- Mombasa, Kenya
PRE HEALTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS
Whether looking to join medical school in North America, Europe or any other country, our premed program will be invaluable preparation for you and should be distinguishing in the personal statement section of your application, be it AMCAS, UCAS, or whichever application process in your respective country.

The AAMC suggests that for admission to US medical schools, “applicants should consider volunteering at a local hospital or clinic to gain practical experience in the health professions” – this suggestion is obviously applicable to all medical schools.

Because of the very limited resources yet tremendous healthcare needs in developing countries, premeds will be much more appreciated and much more useful to both hospitals and patients - leading to a richer experience.

The goal is to enhance an applicant’s realistic view and exposure of what medicine is about by shadowing physicians and other healthcare staff in a busy clinical setting.

For one to have an upper edge into the Admission to P.A schools, most universities recommend that one should consider volunteering in a hospital to gain practical knowledge in medicine. A pre-physician shadowing program overseas presents you with an exposure and opportunity to experience healthcare delivery in a completely different environment. While shadowing you will interact with various patient’s perspectives and how culture affects the delivery of quality health services. Students have a chance to observe the professional’s physician assistants as well shadow in activities like obtaining patient medical histories, performing examinations and procedures, ordering treatments, diagnosing diseases, prescribing medication, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests, referring patients to required specialists, and first or second-assist in surgery.

“This program helped me get acquainted with the medical world before I even stepped into medical school; I got to do things that wouldn’t be possible in America. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming and I felt at home. It was very hard to say goodbye to everyone when I left, even after only weeks; I will miss everyone and EA very much!”

Sara Ernster
- Luther college, US
The dentists at the hospital (Arusha, TZ) were more than happy to assist you and teach you new things. Of course there is time to travel and sight see, which I did most days and had many unforgettable experiences.

Wesley Burcham – Indiana State University

PRE-DENTISTRY

Our pre-Dental program targets students with a serious and documented interest in pursuing an undergraduate degree in dentistry. Applicants can either be college students about to join dental school or those in a pre-dental program seeking exposure to dentistry in the developing world setting.

Like in our other electives we encourage students to be proactive, to be ready to assist with even the small tasks, to spend time at the dental clinic so as to get most of the experience and to ask as many relevant questions as they can.
PRE-NURSING

This program is designed for undergraduate students wishing to apply to nursing school. It is also ideal for those interested in getting a first hand look into their future profession. Gaining experience by volunteering for a local hospital or medical center before beginning the Nursing Program is not only highly recommended, but will also strengthen your and more importantly, help you determine if becoming a nurse will be a fit for you.

PRE-MIDWIFERY

The pre-midwifery program is specifically aimed ensuring one gets exposure to the career of midwives. The full range of services that revolve around the care of the mother right from the prenatal stage through to the delivery and after delivery has unique attributes in developing countries. Observing the midwives deliver the care at the limit of resources and in straining atmospheres clearly helps one establish the skills and attitudes that are key to success in this field. Besides that one gets to understand how the health system functions and how the team of the health professionals combine to deliver care.
ENRICH YOUR TRIP

There is more to the experience than the clinical aspect. During the weekend or your free afternoon hours, EA has created opportunities for you to take part in community based activities that will broaden your view on the culture and the community you will be living in.

After your placement, you can go on an unforgettable adventure and sample more of what Africa has to offer in terms of wildlife and landscape.
Many African states strain to cater for all their population. Limited resources must stretch even further when shared with refugees or asylum seekers due to war or climatic disasters. As a result certain needs are overlooked such as government schools and orphanages. Elective Africa creates an opportunity for students in their Healthcare internship programs to volunteer in local schools and orphanages during their free time and weekends. Through these programs, students gain a deeper understanding of the culture as well as the issues that affect the local people. It’s also a chance to learn about yourself as you take on the challenges of living and working in a completely new environment.

“The program organized for us to volunteer at a local school and go teach kids and then play sports with them. This was definitely one of my favorite experiences with EA because we got to explore the culture, learn about life here with challenges and success.”

Katie Lobban
- Colorado State University
Africa is spectacular from the highest mountain peak to the warm, blue ocean.

A Safari is a fantastic way to see all the sights in between: the rolling Savanna, the Great Rift Valley, volcanic lakes, and a rich array of wildlife.

In Kenya you can spend some days in the famous Maasai Mara, home of the annual wildebeest migration.

Arusha, Tanzania has a network of game parks and reserves where you can see the Big Five and others in their natural domain such as the rare black rhino.

Mount Kilimanjaro is the world’s tallest “walkable” mountain, hence anyone who is fairly fit can make a go. It’s a rare and rewarding view from the “Roof of Africa”.

Safaris and Mountain Treks
Our Destinations

An elective overseas is an adventure in rich new cultures, an opportunity for a broader clinical experience. Whether seeking an urban, rural or coastal experience, Elective Africa has the placement for you in any of our bases in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. We work with public teaching hospitals, community health centers and in some cases private hospitals within the communities that graciously welcome students to live and work among them. Major health challenges in the region are tropical diseases like Malaria and Dengue Fever, food and waterborne diseases like Typhoid and Hepatitis A, and others that are uncommon in the developed world like TB and Meningitis. In the absence of comprehensive
and affordable public health cover, the two main sources of healthcare funding are patients and their families, and the government. With the annual budgetary allocation for health falling to less than 10 percent, these governments depend on foreign aid to supplement public health needs.

The beauty of coming to Africa for your elective is that in addition to the rare healthcare experience, you also get to explore the wonders of nature on safari, trek the highest mountain in Africa, or bask in the sunlit glory of the beautiful beaches.
KENYA

Population: approx. 43 million
Doctors to population 9:100,000
Dentists to population 2:100,000
Nurses to population 83:100,000

Kenya was Elective Africa’s flagship destination and our headquarters in Africa are in Nairobi so we are on the ground to ensure you get the best placement experience possible.

Kenya boasts the largest economy in East Africa and is one of the top ten wealthiest states in the continent.

It is home to the world’s most spectacular wildlife phenomenon, the Great Wildebeest Migration. From June to October, millions of wildebeest, zebra and other herbivores cross the crocodile-infested Grumeti River in search of pasture.

If you are looking to get an urban experience you can choose from our Nairobi location, being the capital city of Kenya. Mombasa location has the 2nd largest teaching and referral hospital in Kenya, Coast General Hospital. Add to the beach experience and you get a get away while on a learning trip.

“Doing a medical elective in Kenya was an eye opening experience. I got to see the third world health system and range of tropical diseases not normally prevalent in Australia. It was a really hands on experience.”

Cassanne Eccleston, Australia, 2010
The “Green City in the Sun” is the capital city of Kenya. A major hub for the arts, politics, business, and administration, Nairobi is a melting pot of cultures as people from all over the country and beyond live and work here.

Popular pastimes include theater, music and comedy shows, dining out, shopping, and nature. The weather is fair and warm except during the cold months (June – August).

The largest public hospital with the most advanced diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative capability in the system is found in Nairobi, Kenyatta National Hospital. Many patients have to travel all the way to the city to get the critical care they need.

COASTAL PLACEMENTS

The white sandy beaches of the Indian Ocean are a unique selling point for Mombasa and Malindi. The Coast region captivates with its fascinating culture, striking architecture, rich history, wildlife, sports and a vibrant nightlife, not to mention the sumptuous Swahili cuisine. It is always hot, but it rains from April – May and January – February.

Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya and home to the second largest public health institution in the country. It is our most popular destination for healthcare placements due to these factors.

Malindi is known as “Little Italy” due to its popularity with Italian tourists and investors.

“‘We thoroughly recommend the program in Mombasa, Kenya, the program exceeded our expectations and contributed to one of the greatest experiences we have had in our lives.’”

Simon Ho & Thomas Yang
Medical students from, Deakin University
KISUMU

Kisumu is a port city on Lake Victoria, the largest freshwater lake in Africa. It is the third largest city in Kenya.

The town is known to be hot and humid but in the afternoon, a cool breeze blows in over the water and if you’re lucky you may catch a glimpse of the large mammals at Hippo Point. Kisumu is also famous for delicious tilapia, curios and breathtaking sunsets.

Proximity to the lake increases the prevalence of Malaria, a mortal threat to pregnant women and children under five. Public health officials in the area also must contend with high rates of HIV/AIDS infections.
MIGORI

Located 180 km from Kisumu and 22km North of the Kenya/Tanzania border, Migori is best suited for one interested in working in the rural setting. It is easily accessible by road but a far cry from the bustling towns. Minimal resources compel health workers to think fast and make do with what they have to cater to a large number of patients turning up for treatment.
Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa and shares a border with eight nations.

Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is the highest point in Africa and is popular with trekkers as an enjoyable climb.

Ujamaa, a socialist ideology and way of governance still influences governing structures.

ARUSHA
This is a multicultural city at the foot of Mt Meru surrounded by a number of fascinating attractions and game reserves. It is home to the headquarters of the East African Community and the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Its famous clock tower is said to mark the midpoint between Cairo and Cape Town.

There is a large regional and referral hospital and several smaller facilities under the Department of Health in the Arusha Municipal Council serving more than half a million people.

MOSHI
On the lower slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro is a quiet town with a spectacular view. Moshi serves as base for mountain treks on the highest mountain in Africa.

Despite the hot-tropical climate of the entire Tanzania, the town enjoys a relatively cooler temperature due to its elevation. The rainy seasons are March-May and November-December.

“"The Elective Africa program in Arusha is a unique and wonderful opportunity for Medical Students. The hospital and Staff are great and provide instruction for students of all years. Additionally, the city of Arusha is a great area to live in and embrace the culture of Tanzania.”

Chad Schuety Arusha, Tanzania
NEXT STEPS

To apply you must
1. Be at least 18 years old
2. Complete an application at http://www.electiveafrica.com/apply
3. Provide evidence of enrollment in a university program usually a signed letter from your institution showing that you are a bona fide student in good standing
4. Pay the reservation deposit.

Please note that in all of our destinations there is a maximum number of places available so book as early as possible. We limit the number of students at each location at one time to maintain placement structure as well as the quality of the clinical opportunities in various departments at our partner hospitals as you would expect from the program.

Apply today at: http://electiveafrica.com/apply