

Global Field Experience Financial Awards

Information Session
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STAY UP TO DATE:

<https://www.sph.emory.edu/rollins-life/community-engaged-learning/global-field-experience/index.html>

or search for "RSPH GFEFA"

WHAT IS THE GFEFA PROGRAM?

GFEFA is a term that gets confusing. GFEFA is the abbreviation for the **Global Field Experience Financial Awards**, a funding source.

Many students participate in field experiences that are not funded by the GFE financial awards.

These experiences may count as Applied Practice Experiences (APE) when they meet the APE requirements for graduation. But, we don't decide that, your APE advisor does. Questions? Ask your ADAP.

So GFE financial awards – GFEFA- are money; a global field experience (GFE) is just that – an experience.

WHY AND HOW?

The awards program started around 1995 to provide student practical experience in low and middle-income countries (LMIC). It is administered by one staff member and a faculty review committee chaired by Dr. McFarland.

The awards are funded by an endowment and how much we can award each year depends upon financial returns.

Prior to COVID-19, awards ranged from \$1500-\$2500. Average expenses ~\$3800.

GFEFA cannot fund everything nor everyone.

AWARDS MADE POSSIBLE

BY:

Philip S. Brachman, Sr., MD,
Dr. and Mrs. William H. Foege,
Dorothy and Stanley O. Foster,
Eugene J. and Rose Salamone Gangarosa,
Richard and Linda Hubert and the Hubert Foundation,
Carol and Carlos Martel,
Deborah A McFarland,
Don E. Sokolik, MD and Kathleen Sokolik



You are
responsible for
identifying your
project, we don't
find it for you.

NEW FOR 2021

The application will be available in December and due **March 1**.

Fieldwork may take place in the U.S. in-person (per CDC COVID-19 Safety Guidelines) and/or virtually.

Priority consideration will be given to applied public health fieldwork for the benefit of a population(s) in LMIC or priority populations in the U.S. as identified in by the CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity.

During COVID: Unless you have approval from your host organization, are permitted to enter the host nation, and meet parameters from the U.S. State Department to travel, you should consider the modified U.S.-based opportunity above.

STEPS TO APPLYING FOR A GFEFA

1 - Reflect

Reflect on why you are pursuing public health. How will you prioritize what is most important to you about a summer experience: setting, population, topic or skills?

Use worksheet on website to facilitate reflection.

2 - Explore

Opportunities and ideas are everywhere. Talk to faculty and 2nd years, look on Handshake, search past projects on website, network with guest speakers.

Not all projects qualify for GFEFA. Exclusions include third-party public health tourism, medical/clinical shadowing or work in a lab or with data sets with no clear reason why global setting is relevant.

3 - Plan

What are your non-negotiables? Connect with faculty guide and host organization early and often. What is feasible in your timeframe? And, what does your host expect before and after your time in-country/summer? Set a personal timeline for immunizations, passport, visa. Gather application components.

STEPS TO APPLYING

4 - Consult

Find a faculty guide soon. Ask lots of questions. Receive feedback with humility. Repeat this process with your field supervisor.

If your project puts you or your beneficiary/target group at increased risk you MUST detail how you intend to mitigate or manage this risk.

Be able to describe language requirements and your ability to be effective AND SAFE in the setting. Budget for a translator or local teams if appropriate.

5 - Apply

Develop your application in a word processing app first; it has to be submitted all in one sitting.

Include draft tools/materials as uploads, indicating you will revise in- country or in practice with local input.

Give your faculty guide ample time to complete the Faculty Guide Approval Form.



Connecting to a Host Organization



- Have a local contact that you are working with throughout the project development and that they contribute towards both your project AND **supervision** during the program.
- Communicate in advance on **site-specific** project components (e.g., rainy season, dry season, Ramadan, populations at risk, personal and beneficiary risk mitigation, confidential data management, etc.)
- Be sure that your project contributes to the **needs of the organization** and that this is documented in application.
- Are they able to provide any **in-kind support** such as subsidizing accommodations (get details!); providing ground transportation; covering the cost of translators or research participant incentives. Be prepared for the answer to be “no”.
- Ask whether **local/national IRB** is required. If so, it will often take a long time. Start early and discuss ASAP with your advisors. Don't expect them to tell you everything you need to know - ASK QUESTIONS and stay in touch.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS



Faculty Guide Approval Form

Information Form

Abstract

Detailed Narrative

- Background
- Objectives
- Methods
- Deliverables
- Learning Objectives

Uploads

- Timeline (GANTT chart)
- Budget
- Letter of invitation
- CV
- Draft materials

APPLICATION REVIEW

- GFEFA Application Review Committee: Faculty from multiple departments with experience in global field work
- Each proposal read and evaluated by at least 3 committee members
- Evaluation criteria and numerical ranking of each application
- Applications for funding with the fewest (to none) revisions needed receive the highest amount of support
- Feedback is consolidated into official emails from committee to provide status update and revise/resubmit expectations to students
- Award monies aren't processed until concerns have been addressed



EVALUATION CRITERIA

The committee looks for evidence of organizational support, communication, planning and preparation with host

Criteria:

(0 - 5 scale with 5 highest)

- Demonstrated, positive implications for public health
- Objectives are achievable
- Methods are appropriate
- Student demonstrates capacity to meet project objectives

THE BOTTOM LINE

Is this a meaningful, rigorous, ethical project, responsive to community needs, that can be done in the timeframe?

Predeparture training is required of all GFEFA recipients and any student traveling to an LMIC for summer fieldwork.

UPON RETURN

When you return you will be required to participate in debriefing events and provide a summary and photo from your project.





STUDENT PANEL

ADVICE FROM PREVIOUS STUDENTS



- Will my PI be available for support in-country? If not, will there be a designated person or group to support my work?
- Who are all the people involved in the project and what is their role?
- Who is my day-to-day contact person?
- Is there support from the leadership for this project?
- Will I be a burden on their resources? (Likely, yes – what can you do to mitigate that?)
- Is in-country IRB required?
- Does my timeline require data collection during the rainy season?
- Does the host organization require an official MOU?

ADVICE FROM PREVIOUS STUDENTS

- Make sure you know appropriate work clothing for the culture you're entering
- Be realistic about what you can accomplish in a summer
- Prepare for jetlag
- It's really helpful to talk to and ask questions of students and faculty who have spent time in the area you're traveling to
- Be sure to budget for other trips
- Keep track of your phone
- Plan, plan, plan for everything and anything
- Have a back-up summer APE because it can all fall apart in April
- Have the thesis project discussion early if you plan to use your APE for your thesis

ADVICE FROM PREVIOUS STUDENTS

- If there are red flags about the project, believe them
- Plan a budget and STICK TO IT. Give yourself some wiggle room, too. Your budget is not going to be 100% accurate
- Don't expect everything to go as planned
- Pack more than five shirts
- Pack fewer clothes
- Learn more basic greetings in local language
- Have explicit conversations about what your host organization will pay for
- Make sure you have very specific objectives
- I wish I hadn't had stressed so much because things worked out the way they were meant to (some things are outside of my control)

Questions?

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