

# International volunteer and internship opportunities

Compiled by the Global Health Fellows Program [www.ghfp.net](http://www.ghfp.net)

## **Academy for Educational Development** <http://www.aed.org/index.cfm>

AED is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to solving critical social problems and building the capacity of individuals, communities, and institutions to become more self-sufficient. AED works in all the major areas of human development in the United States and developing countries.

## **Adventist Development and Relief Agency International** [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org)

ADRA works to improve the quality of life in developing countries through integrated community-based development and disaster preparedness and response activities. ADRA is an affiliate of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and fulfills its objectives without regard to ethnicity, biographic origin, age, gender, political or religious association.

## **Africare** <http://www.africare.org/>

Africare works in partnership with African communities to achieve healthy and productive societies. Africare's approach places communities at the center of development activities. Africare believes that only through strong communities can Africa feed itself, appropriately exploit its natural resources, educate, care and protect its children, promote the economic well being of African people and live in peace.

## **American Friends Service Committee** <http://www.afsc.org/>

This AFSC community works to transform conditions and relationships both in the world and in ourselves, which threaten to overwhelm what is precious in human beings. We nurture the faith that conflicts can be resolved nonviolently, that enmity can be transformed into friendship, strife into cooperation, poverty into well-being, and injustice into dignity and participation.

## **American Jewish World Service** <http://www.ajws.org/>

American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice. AJWS is dedicated to alleviating poverty, hunger and disease among the people of the developing world regardless of race, religion or nationality. Through grants to grassroots organizations, volunteer service, advocacy and education, AJWS fosters civil society, sustainable development and human rights for all people.

## **The American Red Cross** <http://www.redcross.org/index.html>

The American Red Cross helps vulnerable people around the world to prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies, and life-threatening health conditions.

## **The American Refugee Committee** <http://www.arcrelief.org/>

The American Refugee Committee works with refugees, displaced people, and those at risk to help them survive crises and rebuild lives of dignity, health, security and self-sufficiency.

## **CARE** [www.care.org](http://www.care.org)

CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. We place special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. Women are at the heart of CARE's community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of HIV, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources.

## **Catholic Relief Services** [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States. Our mission is to assist the poor and disadvantaged, leveraging the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to alleviate human suffering, promote development of all people, and to foster charity and justice throughout the world. CRS operates on five continents and in 98 countries.

## **Centre for Development and Population Activities** <http://www.cedpa.org/>

Founded in 1975, the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) is an internationally recognized non-profit organization that improves the lives of women and girls in developing countries. Our

approach is to work hand-in-hand with women leaders, local partners, and national and international organizations to give women the tools they need to improve their lives, families and communities.

**Doctors of the World-USA** <http://www.doctorsoftheworld.org/>

Founded by a group of volunteer physicians, Doctors of the World-USA is an international health and human rights organization working where health is diminished or endangered by violations of human rights and civil liberties.

**Global Services Corps** [www.globalservicecorps.org](http://www.globalservicecorps.org)

Global Service Corps is an international service-learning organization that is built on the participation of its volunteer participants, staff, and advisors, both in the developed and developing countries of the world. Its program is established on the view that the personal lives and activities of people around the world are increasingly intertwined. It is important that we understand the inter-relatedness of our actions and the effect they have on individual health, social well-being, and environmental stability worldwide.

**Habitat for Humanity International** [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

**Health Volunteers Overseas** [www.hvousa.org](http://www.hvousa.org)

Health Volunteers Overseas is a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the availability and quality of health care in developing countries by the training and education of local health care providers.

**InterAction** <http://www.interaction.org/>

InterAction is the largest alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations. With more than 160 members operating in every developing country, we work to overcome poverty, exclusion and suffering by advancing social justice and basic dignity for all.

**The International Rescue Committee** <http://www.theirc.org/>

The International Rescue Committee seeks to bring attention to forgotten or neglected crises and to pressure governments and international organizations to help and protect refugees, displaced people and other victims of conflict.

**International Medical Corps** <http://www.imcworldwide.org/>

International Medical Corps is a global, humanitarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training and relief and development programs.

**International Center for Research on Women** [www.icrw.org](http://www.icrw.org)

ICRW has worked with partner organizations and governments throughout the world to promote gender equitable development, reduce poverty, and change the lives of millions of women and girls and their communities.

**Mercy Corps** <http://www.mercycorps.org/>

Mercy Corps exists to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities.

**The Peace Corps** [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the federal government devoted to world peace and friendship.

**United Methodist Committee on Relief** [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org)

UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church, a worldwide denomination. For 65 years UMCOR has responded internationally to natural or human made disasters-those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

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## Students called to global service

**The Boston Globe**

By John Donnelly, Globe Staff | June 4, 2007

WASHINGTON -- The number of graduates from US master's degree programs in international health has grown by 69 percent in the last decade as a part of an overall boom among students interested in saving lives in the poorest parts of the world.

The trend is also seen in heightened interest among undergraduates and medical school students in global health issues, particularly at Boston's two major centers of public health teaching -- Boston University and Harvard University.

More than 500 students attended a global health career forum at Harvard earlier this year. "Global Health Challenges" has been one of the most popular classes at Harvard College for the last three years, averaging 165 students. And the first two residents have just graduated from a new program at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital that trains doctors in global health.

At Boston University's School of Public Health, enrollment in the Department of International Health has nearly doubled in four years, to 225 students from 120 in 2003.

"It's gangbusters, it's unbelievable," said Jonathon Simon, the department's chairman.

Sara Green, 31, who just finished her first year at the Harvard School of Public Health, said that helping AIDS orphans in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2003 made her think about global health as a career.

"It's an area where I could really make a difference, and making an impact is something that is important to me," she said. "I spent 10 years in communications, and it didn't feel nearly as significant."

Jim Yong Kim, chairman of Harvard Medical School's Department of Social Medicine, said just a handful of people in his Harvard Medical School class two decades ago expressed any interest in global health. This year, he said, roughly a third of the 130 first-year students petitioned him and Paul Farmer, with whom he was teaching a course on social justice in medicine, to put more global health material into their class.

The two professors added 10 seminars examining nitty-gritty subjects such as how organizations deliver syringes and anti retroviral AIDS medicines to remote villages in Africa.

Scott Lee, 25, said he led the petition drive because "many of us need something beyond" the class curriculum.

Health-related organizations also report a jump in resumes from young graduates. "We're seeing really good students who seem to have less concern about getting any job and more concern about having a job that is meaningful to them," said Joel Lamstein, president and co founder of John Snow Inc., a Boston-based public health research and consulting firm that employs 1,000 people.

Around the nation, the number of schools of public health now stands at 38, up from 27 a decade ago, according to the Association of Schools of Public Health, based in Washington, D.C. In those schools, the association found the 69 percent increase in students studying international health.

Michael H. Merson, director of the six-month-old Duke Global Health Institute in Durham, N.C., founded with \$30 million in seed money, believes that students are being drawn to international health for many reasons, including an increase in media coverage of such issues as the SARS outbreak and AIDS as well as a heightened awareness of foreign issues since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Merson also cited the increasing amount of money in the field and a greater number of health organizations. He singled out the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has given \$6 billion to global health projects since 1999.

"The Gates Foundation has really mattered, and related to that is the celebrity factor. I admire Bono the most," Merson said of the lead singer of the Irish rock band U2. "But there are many others out there -- George Clooney with Darfur, Oprah with orphans in South Africa, Alicia Keys, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie. To our youth, that matters. The fact they have turned such devotion to such causes, many of them in Africa, makes it sort of a cool thing to do."

But transforming a desire into effective work overseas is not simple. For medical school residents, it can be costly and time-consuming and can require on-the-ground supervised training.

David Walton, 30, one of the first two Brigham graduates in the Howard Hiatt Residency in Global Health Equity program, needed to add a fourth year to the regular three-year residency program in order to complete his global health studies. In the last four years, he has spent half the year in Boston and half in Haiti. The Brigham program has grown to include 15 residents.

Walton said his education at Brigham was akin to being "at Disneyland and getting to go on all the rides. I had all the bells and whistles, all the tools, CAT scans, MRIs. If I needed an orthopedic surgeon, boom, I had one."

In Haiti, he had none of that -- and he had a much larger job. Based in Lascahobas, a two-hour drive north of the capital Port-au-Prince, Walton learned how to design a new hospital, order drugs for the pharmacy, and examine causes of disease by visiting patients in their homes.

"Part of what we fundamentally believe is that you can't just give people pills," Walton said. "You have to get them out of poverty to get at the roots of disease. With home visits, I can see if they need a new house, and if I need to do triage to see how we can do that."

Such skills take time to develop, requiring sensitivity to people's needs and traditions, said Farmer, whose work over a quarter-century in Boston, Haiti, and elsewhere around the world was chronicled in Tracy Kidder's book, "Mountains Beyond Mountains."

"The question is, how can you do this ethically and with dignity?" Farmer said, adding that US schools and nongovernmental organizations should work closely with authorities in poor countries to determine the mission of foreign doctors and other health workers. "You don't want to have a young doctor go over and . . . end up being a spectator to poverty."

But Walton said well-designed global health programs can both teach Americans and benefit a poor country. The ideal, he said, is when "Boston informs Haiti, and Haiti informs Boston."

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