

Advantages of Choosing a Field Station for International Elective

- Field stations are open to all medical students that are interested
- Students gain knowledge and skills that the U of A faculty deems valuable and appropriate for students current level of training
- Students receive guaranteed preceptorship at each site
- Students have opportunities to contribute to ongoing programs that have a partnership with Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD)
- A pre-existing relationship between the FoMD and the host institution may allow for richer cultural experience
- Partnerships **may** result in reduced cost for students
- Students participating in field station programs qualify for the FoMD travel bursary
- Travel for the elective can be planned, and the conditions, logistics and overall expectations for the elective are known well in advance. Students generally know about their placements in January of the year the elective will be undertaken.
- Students receive support from the Global Health Program in terms of booking travel, visas, etc.
- Students do not have to travel/navigate/experience culture shock of a foreign country alone (i.e. usually no less than 2 students going to each site)
- Students are able to gather advice and feedback from past students who participated in the Field Station Program
- If for some reason, the Field Station chosen is unable to accommodate students (earthquakes and other natural disasters, insufficient teaching capacity, etc.) the Global Health Program will assist students in finding another site that fits their needs

Disadvantages of Choosing an International Elective in a Non-Field Station Site or with IFMSA

- Only 50% of students are accepted from IFMSA
- Students may end up with a clinical experience that may be unethical and beyond current knowledge and ability
- Most organizational exchanges are at sites at which FoMD has no connections
- IFMSA exchanges do not release confirmed information regarding the elective until 8 weeks prior to the exchange