Student Global Health Experiences at Washington University in St. Louis

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Student Global Health Experiences Survey

Aim: The goal of this project is to develop a centralized, comprehensive platform that showcases the distribution and extent of student global health experiences at Washington University in St. Louis. Such a platform is useful in illustrating the global health engagements of students, and can be used by students to connect with others who have experience working with global health settings, projects, and organizations of interest. A public interactive map will be developed that allows users to filter current students’ global health experiences by School, focus area, country, country income, and type of experience. A similar map was compiled by the Global Health Center displaying global health work done by current faculty at Washington University in St. Louis.

Methods: An in-depth Qualtrics survey was created to collect information about students’ academic background and global health experiences. A pilot test was done on 8 students and adapted based on their feedback. Current full and part-time students from every degree program, year, and discipline were eligible to take the survey. It was distributed to all schools at Washington University in St. Louis, who further distributed it to their student body utilizing School-specific platforms. Student groups, select Departments, and select faculty members were also contacted to distribute the survey among students. Participants in similar projects conducted by other groups were contacted if they met the inclusion criteria. Respondents who provided an email address but did not complete the survey were contacted via email to clarify their responses. Once survey responses were compiled and cleaned, Tableau Public 2018.2 was utilized to create an interactive public map and database on Tableau Public, accessible via the Global Health Center’s website. The known reach of this survey is 6313 students.

Results: Preliminary data on geographic distribution of students’ global health experiences

- Percentage of respondents that have done or are currently engaged in global health work at Washington University (n=111)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Global Health Work</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In which schools are the most students engaging in global health experiences?

- School of Medicine
- Brown School
- Arts and Sciences
- School of Engineering & Applied Science
- Brown School and School of Medicine
- Brown School and Olin Business School
- Arts and Sciences and School of Medicine

What is the most frequent duration of students’ global health experiences?

- 1 - 2 months
- 3 - 6 months
- 6 months - 1 year
- 1 year - 2 years
- 2 - 3 years
- 3 - 5 years
- 5 - 10 years
- More than 10 years

Conclusions: This is one of the only examples of interactive public maps being used to showcase students’ global health experiences among peer institutions, and can be utilized by all to better understand the landscape of global health endeavors pursued by students at Washington University in St. Louis. The highest frequency of students’ global health experiences are taking place in Uganda, are research-focused, and last 1-2 months. The most common focus areas are maternal & child health, capacity building, and nutrition. Students at the School of Medicine, Brown School, and Arts & Sciences are engaging the most in global health experiences. The low response rate (1.9%) limits the scope of our data, and should be improved in future iterations of this survey.

Student Global Health Student Advisory Committee

The Global Health Student Advisory Committee is comprised of student representatives from the School of Arts & Sciences, Brown School, School of Medicine, School of Engineering & Applied Science, School of Law, and Olin Business School.

GHSAC works closely with the Global Health Center on university-wide activities, and communicate with the different schools and student groups to help generate awareness and interest in global health among students at Washington University and beyond. Some initiatives include:

- Global Health Week (February 25 – March 2, 2019)
- Facilitating collaboration among student groups that focus on global health
- Global Health Case Competition
- Providing support at the Global Health Infectious Diseases conference
- Coordinating meetings with visiting speakers

Members of the 2018-19 Committee:

- Aishwarya Nagar, Brown School – President
- Wei Liu, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts – Vice President
- Mackenzie Robinson, Brown School – Director of Communications
- Cathly Yu, School of Medicine – Director of Operations & Logistics
- Gwen Byrne, Olin Business School – Associate Director of Communications
- Aniruddha Gururaj, Arts & Sciences – Co-Associate Director of Operations & Logistics
- Carmen Maria Von Umur, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts – Co-Associate Director of Operations & Logistics
- Yaseen Ali, Olin Business School – Consortium of Universities for Global Health Campus Representative
- Kyle Nicholson, School of Engineering & Applied Sciences – Consortium of Universities for Global Health Campus Representative
- Marianne Ligon, School of Public Health – Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Representative
- Morissa Scholte, Arts & Sciences – Consortium of Universities for Global Health Campus Representative
- Thomas van Horn, School of Medicine – Medical School Representative
- Sarah Yang, School of Medicine –Biology Member

To become involved with global health activities at WashU, consider connecting with the following student organizations:

- GlobalMed
- Global Health & Medicine
- Global Health @ Brown
- Engineers Without Borders
- Infectious Disease Interest Group

A full list of student groups that focus on global health issues can be found at publichealth.wustl.edu/global/student-activities/

Interested in learning more about what we do? Reach out to us!

Email: ghsac@wustl.edu
Facebook: @washuglobalhealth

Global Health Work at WashU

Map of Global Health Work at Washington University in St. Louis

Explore our interactive map & database at publichealth.wustl.edu/global/maps/

Scan this code or email jvanrheenen@wustl.edu to take our student global health experiences survey.