The Columbia University College of Dental Medicine (CUCDM) has an active “Global Health Externship Program” (GHE) in which more than 40% of the DDS students participate in a service mission to underserved countries such as Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Cambodia, and Philippines at some point during their enrollment. They can also participate in underserved communities in the US through the Indian Health Service (IHS). CDM faculty and residents accompany the students on these trips partnered with service organizations such as K.I.D.S. (Kids International Dental Services), Somos Amigos, and the IHS to provide necessary oral care to these underserved areas. A total of over 2500 patients are seen annually on these missions.

The goals of the CUCDM GHE Program include:

- Establishing a global presence at these locations
- Providing continuity of service for these communities
- Partnerships with strong philanthropic organizations with years of experience abroad
- Creating an awareness of and an appreciation for “dental philanthropy”
- Developing student cultural competency
- Providing care where access is difficult or non-existent
- Developing Professional Judgment and Self-Confidence

For more information on CDM’s Global Missions, please visit: http://dental.columbia.edu/page/global-missions. CDM is committed to following the ADA Policy on Dental Student Participation in Dental Outreach Programs.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be submitted in the fall term for all trips scheduled for the upcoming calendar year. Targeted classes are those that will be in their 2nd semester of 3rd year and 1st semester of 4th year during that calendar year. Based on the scheduled dates and locations, applicants will rank those trips they are interested in attending, keeping in mind that they must attend that trip if chosen. Applicants must pay close attention to availability during that time. THEY CANNOT MISS CLINIC, ROTATIONS, EXAMS, OR ANY ACADEMIC OBLIGATIONS.

For more information on sponsoring organizations, please visit their websites at:

http://somosamigos.org/
http://kidservices.org/
http://www.ihs.gov/careeropps/studentopportunities/

Translators are not often available on these missions; therefore language skills are considered when reviewing applicants. An essay and resume will be required from anyone that wishes to attend a GHE.

Other factors that will be considered are:

- Your professional and personal goals for this global health experience
- Your general career goals
- Your experience with the language and culture of the places you’ve chosen
- Hobbies or special abilities you could contribute
- Any special areas of interest that you hope to pursue while on your GHE
- Any other relevant factors

All applications must meet the following deadlines: October 15th. Please note that the IHS will require an additional application and that selection is based on acceptance from IHS.

All current GHEs have formalized agreements with CDM that consider your activities while abroad as part of your academic and clinical studies at CDM. You are therefore covered under the university liability and malpractice insurance policy.
If you choose to pursue any other global experiences, you must meet with the Dean of Student Affairs to discuss necessary steps.

PREDOCTORAL GLOBAL HEALTH MISSION FUNDING

The Columbia University College of Dental Medicine believes that student participation in global health activities expands the perspective of our students and helps develop cultural competency. Therefore the College is able to offer “modest” support to students who elect to engage in approved Global Health Externships when needed. Students participating in the Indian Health Service will have all their expenses covered by IHS and will not need reimbursement; therefore they should not expect a stipend from the school.

Requirements for receipt of school support of up to $500 include:

1. Upon student’s return from GHE, evaluation survey must be completed once evaluation is received, Student Financial Planning will be notified to process a $500 GHE stipend check for student.
2. Disbursement and timeline can be verified with Student Financial Planning in BB room 139 or at 212-305-4100.

PRIOR TO TRAVEL

- Checklist
- Complete a Responsibility Waiver form
- Complete an Application and Release to Participate form
- Complete a Student Health Verification form, after getting a signature from Student Affairs
- Provide a copy of your passport to Student Affairs office
- Confirm that team leader has visited Student Health and is in possession of post exposure prophylaxis medicines for the entire team
Print out a copy of the International SOS (ISOS) card for your trip. International SOS Coverage provides world-wide assistance in the event of an emergency that requires special evacuating and repatriation services and/or immediate medical intervention. This service does not substitute for health insurance.

- Attend all required pre-travel orientation sessions with CDM and/or sponsoring organizations

- Please consider
  - The conditions you will be living in are in most cases rural villages and rural surroundings; be prepared with insect repellant/nets; Water bottle
  - While religious observances must be respected, understand that you are traveling to an underserved area that will most likely not supply special dietary items or provide designated places/times for prayer; you may also be asked to travel on a day of religious observance since travel to and from GHE locations must be planned and done with the entire group; individual travel is neither encouraged during GHE formal activities supported by the CDM
  - Never engage in clinic activity you are not prepared for or have not been trained to perform through CDM or CDM partners
  - Research your destination country/countries through the Center for Disease Control website at [http://www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Also research your destination country/countries at the U.S. State Department website at [http://www.state.gov/countries](http://www.state.gov/countries)
  - Check and verify visa requirements for each of your destination countries. In some countries, visa procurement can take up to several weeks, so plan ahead. For information on visa requirements, visit the host country’s Office of the Consulate General website. U.S. Citizens can refer to the U.S. Department of State’s visa information at [http://travel.state.gov/visa](http://travel.state.gov/visa). International Students must verify that their travel meets the conditions of their student visa by consulting with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO). For more information, visit [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/isso/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/isso/).
  - Verify that you have adequate worldwide health insurance coverage prior to your departure. If you are enrolled in the Columbia Student Medical Insurance Plan, your travel insurance benefits (including medical evacuation) are provided by On Call International. For more information, and details regarding coverage and exclusions, visit the Health Services website at [http://health.columbia.edu](http://health.columbia.edu).
While away, email the Office of Student Affairs at laz1@columbia.edu with any changes or updates to contact information.

RESIDENTS, POST GRAD STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Residents and post grads that are interested in applying should contact Sandi Garcia at sb64@columbia.edu. Please indicate whether you are licensed and teaching in the clinics as you will be allowed to attend GHEs as supervising dentists.

Based on your specialty and the need of the mission, you will be considered for one of the GHEs. You must get clearance from your program director to participate in any missions.

You should complete the application form but please keep in mind that the GHE programs are targeted for DDS students; postdoctoral students are invited, as needed, for their supervisory capabilities.

If selected, you will be asked to complete all the necessary forms and visit the Student Health office for clearance.

- **Checklist**
  - Complete a Responsibility Waiver
  - Complete an Application and Release to Participate
  - Complete a Student Health Verification form with a signature from Student Affairs
  - Provide the Office of Student Affairs with a copy of your passport
  - Confirm that team leader has visited Student Health and is in possession of post exposure prophylaxis medicines for the entire team

This will help us locate you in the event of an emergency, as well as to contact your emergency contacts. Print out a copy of the International SOS (ISOS) card for your trip. International SOS (ISOS) Coverage provides world-wide assistance in the event of an emergency that requires special evacuating and repatriation services and/or immediate medical intervention. This service does not substitute for health insurance.
✓ Attend all required pre-travel orientation sessions with CDM and/or the sponsoring organizations

You will be reimbursed up to $500 upon your return via a travel expense report. The following documents must be submitted immediately upon your return:

✓ Attending Evaluation Form must be completed
✓ Supporting MANDATORY documentation for reimbursement
✓ E-tickets and itinerary
✓ Boarding pass
✓ Credit card statement for all items charged to credit cards with cardholders name and all but the last four digits of account number blocked out
✓ If you have never been reimbursed by the university, we will need a W-9 form completed with your social security number and signed: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf