Global Health Research Guide

This guide serves as a brief introductory primer for medical students who are interested in pursuing global health research opportunities during the summer between their first and second year or during their fourth-year elective. This guide is not meant to be comprehensive. The faculty and research staff will help you through the details of the process once you get started. Rather, this guide is meant to set up an outline of things you need to consider and establish a timeline of when you need to complete each of the major steps.

It takes a minimum of nine months to organize and address all the requirements for an international medical research experience. This timeline may be even longer if you are starting a new international research project.

Some general considerations
- For a good research experience, you should be prepared to spend at least two months at the research site during your project.
- Most research projects will require some degree of personal financial commitment.
- The deadline for MSP funding submission is Jan/Feb if you are planning on pursuing MSP funding you need to carefully review the table below.
- Note: International research is not guaranteed funding by MSP and may require that an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) exist between Augusta University and the institution where the research is taking place.

Types of research projects
There are several different types of research projects that you can participate in as a student. The amount of time required to set up a project increases from 1 – 4 below:
1. Internal established project: AU IRB approved project with an AU faculty member identified as the PI.
    a. These are ongoing international projects that already have approval and are in general easier for a student to join as they can be added to the current IRB approval process.
2. External established project: Project approved by an IRB at another US institution with a PI who is based in the US but not at AU.
    a. These projects can sometimes easily add on an AU student and sometime it can be more difficult depending on the institution and the nature of the project.
    b. If you are seeking to work on this type of project you need to start early.
3. Foreign established project: IRB or ethics approval internationally but no PI or IRB approval based in the US.
    a. These may be the most difficult projects to pursue depending on the type of project and the primary researcher.
    b. If you have identified this type of opportunity you will need to find someone who can serve as PI here at Augusta University and met closely with the research department.

4. New Project: Requires local and IRB approval at the project location.
   a. By far the most time consuming – pay careful attention to the table below.

Basic Steps:
1. Identify your research project.
2. Meet with a global health faculty member and EM research faculty and staff to discuss project, set initial timeline, and trouble-shoot potential issues.
   a. Make sure you have an AU faculty member who agrees to serve as local PI.
   b. Make sure you have initial approval from research site to participate in research.
   c. Make sure you have assurance from research faculty that this is an appropriate research project to pursue.
3. Make a budget: most research projects require funding from several sources you should consider the following options:
   a. MSP funding – pay careful attention to due dates.
   b. External grants – requires quite a bit of independent work to apply for these.
   c. Personal finances.
   d. Friends and family.
4. Develop time line for project development: this should be done in conjunction with your PI as well as the global health research team. The table below is meant as a rough guide but you and the team will come up with specific due dates for each component of the project.
5. The general order for any foreign research experience is:
   a. Identify site, project, mentor, and IRB contact.
      i. If new project, develop the research protocol.
      ii. If existing project get copy of research protocol.
   b. Develop list of project materials/supplies that are needed to carry out the project.
   c. Initiate IRB process
      i. For existing research – requires personnel amendment and ensuring that the IRB approval is CURRENT both in the country where the research is being done and in the AU IRB office.
      ii. For new research – local IRB submission and approval from the IRB or ethics board where research is being performed (Authorization).
   d. Complete AU IRB submission following local international approval.
   e. Make travel arrangements 2-3 months prior to departure date.

Any projects regardless of stage of development that are being considered for MSP funding must be started by October prior to the submission data (Jan/Feb of next year).

The approval process for established projects with current foreign IRB approval may start as late as the November prior to the Summer placement.

New projects with no intention of MSP funding may start as late as October.

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Research Timeline for New Projects

Time line	MSP funding		Established Project		New Projects	
	Student	Research team	Student	Research team	Student	Research team
August	Identify interest in global health research					
September	Meet with global health faculty and research staff	Identify strengths and challenges, establish time line			Identify interest in global health research	
October	Finalize project, international Site, Draft research protocol,	Confirm IRB authorization, contact and plan for IRB	Identify interest in global health research		Meet with global health faculty and research staff	Identify strengths and challenges, establish time line
November	Complete research protocol	Submit Foreign IRB	Meet with global health faculty and research staff	Identify strengths and challenges, establish time line	Finalize project, international Site, Draft research protocol,	Confirm IRB authority, contact and plan for IRB
December		Remote site IRB approval submit to AU IRB	Finalize project, international Site, Draft research protocol,	Confirm IRB authority, contact and plan for IRB	Complete research protocol	Submit Foreign IRB
January		AU IRB approval	Complete research protocol	Submit Foreign IRB		Remote site IRB approval
February				Remote site IRB approval		
March				AU IRB approval		AU IRB approval
April						
May	*TRAVEL*					
June						
July						

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