

CUGH Recommendations for Experiential Learning Opportunities

A similar set of principles guide experiential learning at local, international, and virtual sites, applying to clinical and non-clinical settings and to both applied and research activities.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Work with an established host organization
- Serve the host community, working within local structures and supporting rather than displacing local workers
- Ensure regular communication between host mentors with professional experience and academic mentors at the home institution
- Establish a formal written agreement that defines roles and responsibilities

PLANNING

- Select learning objectives early in the planning process
- Prepare to practice within scope of training and with proper in-country credentials (as applicable)
- Understand professionalism, culture, and ethics related to communication, attire, photography, social media, and other domains

IMPLEMENTATION

- Before beginning the experience: understand the host organization, the role of the learner, behavioral expectations, and risk management responsibilities
- During the experience: work respectfully with the host team, focus on achieving learning objectives, communicate regularly with host and academic mentors, and maximize safety
- After the experience: prepare a written reflection about the personal and professional lessons learned, share the professional lessons learned with peers at the home institution, and prepare an academic written product if appropriate
- Throughout the experience: keep the focus on learning rather than leading

EVALUATION

- Partner organizations should regularly evaluate the alignment of their missions and whether the partnership is worth continuing