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GLOBAL HEALTH TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS (GHTP)

A TOOLKIT FOR FUTURE GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ENVISION YOURSELF IN GLOBAL HEALTH	3
BUILD GLOBAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE	5
CONTINUING EDUCATION	7
GET INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE	8
GLOBAL HEALTH CAREER RESOURCES	9
GLOBAL HEALTH DISCUSSION TOPICS	11

ENVISION YOURSELF IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Global Health Technical Professionals (GHTP) was designed by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to offer early to mid-career global health and other technical professionals (TPs) the opportunity to advance their careers supporting USAID's Global Health Bureau, Missions, and other USAID Bureaus and Offices. Through GHTP, USAID is contributing meaningfully to identifying and training a new generation of diverse, global health talent that will bring advanced skillsets to the global health field in years to come.

GHTP believes that the development of future global health leaders does not begin with their entry into the workforce but earlier in their academic careers. Many students through their own lived experiences and academic interests, possess key skills needed for a career in global health. GHTP seeks to capitalize on this unique moment, to invest in students early to ensure they are excellent candidates for opportunities at USAID. GHTP created Future Global Health (GH) Leaders to connect diverse students with global health career resources and ultimately, expand the pipeline of GH professionals.

As a Future GH Leader, you may be currently eligible for full-time career opportunities with GHTP or other Global Health Hiring Mechanisms (see www.globalhealthtp.org for current opportunities). If you are not yet eligible, you can take the first step to explore the vast options available to you in the field of Global Health that can lead you to successfully obtaining a global health position in the future. Whether you are eligible now or later, with the Future GH Leaders you'll learn the key skills needed for the field, get connected to working professionals, access resume tools, and participate in webinars to keep you engaged, learning, and connected to other like-minded global health professionals. As you join this network of diverse aspiring GH professionals, we hope these tools help you to see yourself in the field of global health.

WHAT IS GLOBAL HEALTH?

Global Health is a field that is constantly in flux, with a definition that continues to be debated. When we use the word “global health” throughout this guide our working definition is:

Global health is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. It emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care. Although global health places greater priority on prevention, it also embraces curative, rehabilitative, and other aspects of clinical medicine and the study of basic sciences (Koplan 2009).

Many people have a hard time with the differences between the field of global health, international health, and public health. The chart below helps distinguish between the three.

FOCUS	GEOGRAPHY	COOPERATION	POPULATIONS	ACCESS	DISCIPLINES
Global Health	Health issues that transcend national boundaries	Global	Prevention and clinical care	Health equity among nations	Highly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary
International Health	Focus on issues outside of one's own country	Bi-national	Prevention and clinical care	Help other nations	Embraces a few disciplines
Public Health	Focus on specific communities or countries	National	Prevention	Health equity within a nation or community	Multidisciplinary, particularly with health and social sciences

(Koplan JP et al. Lancet 2009, 373:1)

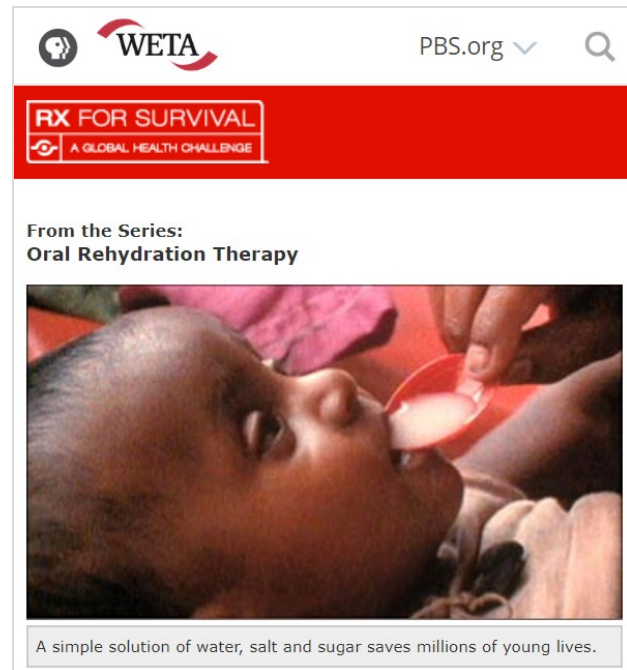
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN GLOBAL HEALTH?

A career in global health positions you to identify and solve complex medical issues around the world. Global health professionals work to ensure the safety of vulnerable populations and improve the health of communities worldwide through education, policy making, and research. Whether you evaluate data, shape public policy, or work directly with communities to improve their wellbeing, there are ample opportunities to make a difference.

Almost every job in global health will rely on a foundation of research, communication and management skills with a strong understanding of working across diverse cultures, environments and political

contexts. In general, global health careers fall into one of four categories: health care provision, research and policy, program management and advising, and program development.¹

- What kind of salary can you expect with a degree in Global Health? Take a look at this quick guide [**Industry 101 – Global Health Careers**](#) from UMD School of Public Health.
- For a more in depth look at the types of issues global health practitioners tackle, you can view this special series from PBS on Global Health: [**RX for Survival – PBS Multi-Part Series on Global Health**](#)
- What does the future global development professional need to know? Take a look at this [**interactive report**](#) on key skills and advice for the future of the industry.



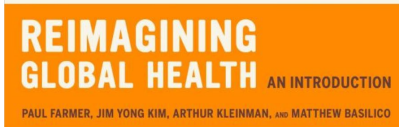
"My work at USAID can range from managing technical assistance projects that aim to ensure our partners have the support they need to achieve epidemic control of HIV to working with our colleagues at other US government agencies and partners at multilateral organizations, to respond to challenges encountered in the field."

**Tara Ornstein, Multilateral Advisor
USAID Global Health Bureau, Office of HIV/AIDS, Global Health Technical Professionals**

BUILD GLOBAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE

For many students, global health or even public health, are not subject areas covered in their current course load. Even if your college or university does not offer any coursework in these areas, you can still pique your interest in the field by reading recommended books and articles independently. We have highlighted some key books from a list of [**recommended reading for Global Health**](#) students sourced from Twitter by Professor Madhukar Pai of McGill University's Global Public Health Programs.

¹ Adapted from Northeastern University and Duke Global Health Institute



POPULAR BOOKS FOR UNDERGRADUATES:

- [Reimagining Global Health](#)
- [Rx for Survival](#)
- [The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down](#)

POPULAR BOOKS FOR GRADUATES:

- [Metrics: What Counts in Global Health](#)
- [When People Come First](#)
- [Spillover](#)

You can also learn more about current global health issues by exploring Global Health related Journals and Newsletters. Here is a [helpful guide](#) for you to navigate them.

POPULAR JOURNALS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

- [Annals of Global Health](#)
- [Global Health Science and Practice Journal](#)
- [The Lancet Global Health Journal](#)

POPULAR GLOBAL HEALTH NEWSLETTERS

- [USAID GH Newsletter](#)
- [Global Health NOW](#)
- [NPR's Goats and Soda](#)

VIRTUAL COURSEWORK

In addition to independent reading of some of the titles above, virtual coursework in global health technical areas can be a great way to increase your knowledge. Many organizations and even universities offer free courses online that can complement your undergraduate or graduate studies. Below are a few great places to start:

- [Coursera – An Introduction to Global Health](#)
- [Global Health University Free Webinars](#)
- [Global Health E-Learning Center](#)
- [Global Health Mini-University](#)
- [JHSPH Open Courseware](#)

NEXT STEPS:

- ✓ Pick a book or journal article to read from the list or of your choosing. Write a list of questions you have for the author.
- ✓ Find a free course that covers a topic in global health you find interesting

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

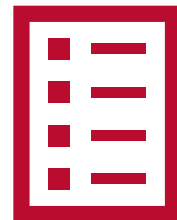
For many of you who are about to complete your undergraduate studies, you may be already thinking about pursuing a graduate degree such as a Master's in Public Health. Although graduates with a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts focused on Public Health/Global Health find fulfilling employment opportunities, many reach a point several years into their work where they desire an advanced degree. Pursuing an MPH degree can allow you to specialize in a subject area and gain a deeper understanding of global health issues. Most accredited programs require some sort of work experience (internship, practicum, etc.) to complete your degree. As an undergrad, even if you take some graduate-level classes, you're unlikely to achieve the same depth of knowledge that you would as an MPH student.

Here are a few key resources as you approach your decision to apply for graduate school:

- [List of Council on Education for Public Health \(CEPH\) Accredited Schools](#)
- [15 Frequently Asked Questions about public health accreditation](#)
- [Top 10 Things to know before you apply](#)
- [SOPHAS Centralized Graduate Program Finder](#)
- [Tips for Financing Your Degree](#)

NEXT STEPS:

- ✓ Create a pros/cons list for pursuing a graduate degree, including a timeline
- ✓ Research ways to fund your education
- ✓ Request informational session with graduate schools or current students/alumni from schools in which you have interest



GET INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

WHY IS INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IMPORTANT?

One of the many crucial aspects to embarking upon a successful career in global health is the ability to get experience living or working overseas. For many jobs even at the entry level, this kind of experience is a pre-requisite. In a [2015 study](#) of Global Health Employers conducted by the Public Health Institute (PHI) 49% of employers in global health said their advice for current global health students would be to get practical work and field experience overseas.

Overseas experience of some kind (paid, volunteer, academic, etc.) is necessary for a successful career in global health because substantive experience abroad can help GH professionals develop the key competencies required to adapt to the field's changing demands. Domestic experience can be transferable to a global context, but it cannot replace the necessity of international work in such a competitive job market.



“International Experience is useful for the organization. They want you to have it for a reason but it is also useful to you. Seek out experience in areas that you are passionate about. The international experience shouldn't be something that checks a box for the organization, it should be something that will benefit you.”

**Lindy Fenlason, Sr. Nutrition and Capacity Building Advisor,
USAID Global Health Bureau, Office of Maternal and Child
Health, STAR Fellow**

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PURSUING OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE

Even if you know that overseas experience is necessary for career success, you may encounter challenges to the ability to pursue those opportunities. How might you pivot from obstacles like lack of financial support or international exposure? To identify opportunities, we've provided suggested next steps in to overcome these barriers and achieve your goal of working overseas.

NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Understand your own motivations for working overseas.
 - Why am I interested in an overseas opportunity?
 - What skills do I hope to gain and what skills do I hope to contribute?
 - How will this experience help me achieve or clarify my long-term career goals?



NEXT STEPS (CONTINUED)

- ✓ Communicate your goals and career framework to family and friends.
 - Focus on the same facts presented at the start of this guide—the abundance of sources pointing to the need for early overseas experience for a successful GH career.
- ✓ Accept feedback and concerns.
 - Family and friends can bring up legitimate concerns about your trip overseas. Take time to think about these and find ways to address them.
- ✓ Develop a plan for personal fundraising
 - Sample guides can be found through [Child Family Health International](#), Global Brigades and others.
- ✓ Investigate independent funding sources, such as grants and scholarships through:
 - [Diversity Abroad](#)
 - [Grants.gov](#)
 - [Matador Network](#)
 - [Manna Project](#)
 - [InterExchange Foundation](#)
- ✓ Consider applying for opportunities that provide funding
 - [Global Health Corps, Peace Corps, CDC IETA](#)
 - [Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training Program](#)
 - [Additional paid opportunities here](#)

GLOBAL HEALTH CAREER RESOURCES

As you navigate your education and international experience, here are a few additional tools for career success.



- [What is GHTP?](#)
- [Exploring Global Health Careers at USAID](#)
- [Resume Template](#)
- [Resume Tips](#)
- [Global Health Career Resource List](#)

Use these tools to highlight your own experience and research organizations you'd like to work with in the future. After this your goal is to be able to expand your global health network. This guide from Rollins School of Public Health shares the key benefits of networking and easy steps to begin: **Emory SPH Networking Guide**

STEP 1: LEARN HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOURSELF

Create your Elevator Pitch Toward a Global Health Job or Graduate Program

Spend 5 minutes brainstorming your elevator pitch and sketching out notes per the below advice. Then give your elevator pitch to a peer, have your peer video record you with your cell phone. Ask your peer for feedback on your elevator pitch, take some notes of their advice. Now do it again with the feedback integrated. Have your peer record you again. Now switch roles, you video tape and your peer does the talking. Watch your videos and feel proud that you are working on this!

- It should be 30 seconds or less
- Your skill (or how you benefit a potential employer) should be clear
- There should be a goal (or ask)

Questions to Ask Yourself:

1. What skills set do you bring to global health? Go beyond the “I want to help people”
2. What is your greatest strength in this area OR the best compliment you’ve ever received about your skill? (Confidence)
3. What would you like to do? (Goal)
4. What’s your “why?” (Motivation)

See detailed tips here: <https://idealistcareers.org/guide-elevator-pitch/>

STEP 2: TALK TO THE EXPERTS – INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

Informational interviews are one of the easiest and most effective ways to meet people in a professional field in which you are interested. Tapping into the knowledge of others will provide you with invaluable information to help you as you make career decisions. Informational interviews are meetings you arrange with a person who currently does the job you think you might want, or who has specific knowledge of an occupation or industry of interest. Here’s a [helpful guide](#) for conducting them.



“Think beyond social media and be intentional about finding people who are doing great work that you want to emulate. Everyone has a network.”

Uchechi Roxo, HIV/AIDS Regional Advisor, USAID GH Bureau, Office of HIV/AIDS, GHSI-III

STEP 3: EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

There are many spaces to network with other global health professionals using the tips above. The organizations below are also a great way to get involved with peers and stay up to date on the latest information in the field of global health, in addition to the career services and alumni services offered at your university.

- [American Public Health Association](#)
- [Global Health Council](#)
- [Women in Global Health](#)

NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Contact your on-campus career services staff
- ✓ Visit the website of a global health organizations you can get involved in



GLOBAL HEALTH DISCUSSION TOPICS

Based on the knowledge you have gleaned from this toolkit, you have likely come up with new areas in global health you want to discuss with your peers. Here are a few articles that may lead to healthy discussions with peers on your campus. In depth knowledge of global health is not required to think through some of the most pressing issues in the field and discuss your thoughts about how we might approach solutions. You'll also receive quarterly topics in each Future GH Leaders newsletter to help you target a new Global Health issue to share with your campus and network.

- [Seven Issues that will shape health workforce future](#)
- [The Future of Global Health Is Urban Health](#)
- [A Case for the Future of Global Health](#)
- [What would we say to young people who are passionate about global health?](#)
- [The activists trying to 'decolonize' global health](#)

NEXT STEPS:

- ✓ Participate in each Future GH Leaders Virtual Meet Up
- ✓ Share posts on these topics in more in the [GH Leaders LinkedIn Group](#)
- ✓ **Envision yourself in Global Health!**

