

Frequently Asked Questions: Global Health Practicum

Overall Structure and Cost

1. What is the cost of the GHP?

\$2,400. This includes transportation to and from the airport/communities, lodging, meals, and educational material expenses (includes everything except extracurricular activities and flights). Please see [AMOS Program Details](#) document for more information and cost-breakdown.

2. Is there a language requirement for the GHP?

No. You will be accompanied at all times by AMOS bilingual staff. However, it is very beneficial to speak Spanish so that you can communicate on your own with some AMOS staff and community members.

3. Can I apply for the AMOS internship?

This year, we are able to offer the GHP (3 week option) to interested participants. The 3-week option constitutes 120 hours of learning and field work time. In the GHP, students will have adequate opportunity to learn and apply community-based research and health care approaches in both rural and urban settings. Field work may include: nutrition screening for children under 5 years; survey on access to clean water; photovoice with youth and parents to understand risk factors and communication practices; participation in a pregnancy or chronic disease support group.

AMOS does offer limited 8-week field positions to those who are participating in the Minority Health Research Training (MHRT) initiative through the National Institutes of Health and Rhodes College. If you are a MHRT student, we will provide you with more details regarding your specific research project at AMOS.

4. Will there be any pre-travel logistics or preparation?

Yes. First we will host a general online information session on February 12, 2020. For those who are accepted into the program, we will have a logistics call on May 11, 2020.

5. When will I be notified if I have been accepted into the program?

March 30, 2020.

Academic Eligibility, Course Credit, Academic Preceptor

1. Can I receive school-credit for the GHP?

Yes. AMOS has a partnership with the University of New Mexico (UNM) who will give two hours of public health course credit. Those who are interested in participating in this opportunity will

file additional paperwork and fees with UNM. In addition, students have received credit for field-hour requirements directly with their own universities (if this is a prerequisite for their program).

2. If I just recently graduated, can I still apply? Who is eligible to apply?

The minimum requirement is that you are an upper-level undergraduate (completed sophomore-level hours). If you have graduated, are in graduate school, are a working professional, or are taking some gap time you are more than welcome to apply!

3. Do I have to have a specific academic background to participate?

No. We believe that all people are bound together in our fight for a healthier world. We accept and promote interdisciplinary approaches and teamwork in the GHP.

4. Who will be my academic or field preceptor for the GHP?

If you are attending the GHP as part of a university requirement and need to fill out information regarding practicum preceptor, this will be:

Jessica Hinshaw, M.P.H.

email: jessica.hinshaw@amoshealth.org

You can email her directly with questions and paperwork regarding learning and field work objectives.

Travel, Safety and Housing

1. Is Nicaragua safe given the recent socio-political context?

For the past year (since August 2018), there have been no wide-spread incidents of violence or ongoing civil unrest (as was experienced from April to July 2018). The country has returned to a relative calm in both rural and urban areas. From January to August 2019, AMOS received a total of 10 volunteer groups and operated the Global Health Practicum. We have taken additional security measures to ensure that everyone remains safe when they come to learn and work with AMOS. You can read how we determine [levels of risk](#) and also our [emergency and safety protocol](#) (including earthquake, fire and snake bite protocols). We recommend that all U.S. travelers enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Plan (STEP) and that Canadian travelers enroll in Canadians Abroad for department of state updates about Nicaragua.

2. Will I have free time for solo travel?

While we view few potential threats to participants' health and safety during the GHP, AMOS is committed to uphold the highest safety standards during your stay on AMOS' campus during the Global Health Practicum. Below we share our expectations for weekend and free-time travel.

Free time

- Every evening, participants will have free-time after course modules have ended for the day. During this time, participants can use the walking trail and other guest house facilities located on the AMOS' campus. From Sunday to Thursday, participants will not be permitted to leave the AMOS campus.
- One day per week, an AMOS vehicle will be available for participants to go to a local grocery store to buy personal items that they may need.¹
- On Fridays, participants will have the opportunity to accompany the GHP coordinators to explore the social atmospheres of Managua. Participants can have dinner in a local restaurant,² and optionally enjoy cultural activities like salsa dancing or an outing to a concert. If some participants wish to stay on AMOS' campus this will be permitted, but those who remain behind will not be allowed to leave the campus.

Rural field-trip

- During the second week of the course, participants will travel to a rural community to engage in field work and further learn about AMOS' model from community health workers. Participants are obligated to follow recommendations and orientations given by the GHP coordinators before and during the field trip.

Weekend excursions

- GHP coordinators will facilitate group travel to tourist and cultural destinations on the weekends. Participants will be provided round-trip transportation and be accompanied at all times by AMOS personnel.

3. What kind of travel documents are required to enter Nicaragua?

You will need a valid passport and \$10 US to pay the entrance visa at the airport. You are required to pay this fee in USD (cash). AMOS requires that you have valid international health coverage to participate in this opportunity.

4. What are the housing accommodations?

Participants will stay at the AMOS guesthouse located on our campus in the community of Nejapa, just outside of the capital of Managua. Please watch [this video](#) to learn more about the AMOS guest house.

5. Are there any health considerations that I should know about before coming to Nicaragua?

Yes. Nicaragua resides in an endemic arbovirus (Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya) zone. We encourage you to take this into consideration. During the logistics information session, we will

¹ Participants will use personal funds for purchases.

² Participants will cover their own costs.



share more about what you should pack to best protect you from these viruses. Please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [traveler health information](#) page to learn more about recommended vaccinations and health precautions for Nicaragua. AMOS requires that you purchase international travel health insurance to participate in the GHP (to be used in the case of a medical emergency). More minor health issues like traveler's diarrhea and every day aches and pains will be treated in the on-campus El Samaritano Clinic.