UMMS Clinical Electives in Ghana

About the M4 Elective Process
In support of our international commitment to foster a culture of diversity, excellence and inclusion, the University of Michigan Medical School (UMMS) offers medical students the International Clinical Elective Program. Students in good academic standing have opportunities to participate in the 4-week clinical elective. These programs provide students with international healthcare experiences and prepare them for high impact career in global health.

Students interested in participating in an international elective in Ghana should begin the application process early. The entire process may take as long as four months because the sites are popular and electronic communication with Ghana can be inconsistent. Students should carefully consider the timing of the elective and check with hosts to avoid conflict with the clinical exam period of Ghanaian medical students when faculty are very busy with proctoring and reviewing students in addition to their normal clinical duties.

- Contact the Office of Medical Student Education (OMSE) office for requirements.
- Students are eligible for 4 credits if they successfully complete their clinical elective.
- The Medicine: M4 International Clinical Elective is required for any student participating in an international elective. A second application, Medicine: M4 International Clinical Elective Grant is only required for students applying for Global REACH funding. A flowchart of the application process can be found on the Global REACH website on the M4 International Elective page under Education Services.

About Global REACH Elective Grants
- Students may be awarded up to $1,200 for participating in an elective at any of the institutions highlighted in this document.
- A student whose elective is NOT approved by OMSE is NOT eligible for the Global REACH grant.
- Students must be enrolled full time at the time of the elective to receive Global REACH funding.
- Global REACH grants are applied to student accounts after completion of the elective and dependent upon submission of sufficient and eligible receipts. Please submit a flight receipt along with your application. If your flight is less than the grant amount please submit additional receipts for documentation.
- The University of Michigan does not reimburse for airline tickets purchased with frequent flyer miles.

UMMS History with Ghana
UMMS has been partnering with the University of Ghana, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Service, and other Ghanaian institutions for more than 20 years under the leadership of Dr. Timothy Johnson, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. The original partnership developed an in-country postgraduate training program for Obstetricians/Gynecologists producing 83 OBGYNs to date; all but one of who still practice in Ghana. Since that initial collaboration, UMMS has deepened its partnership with institutions in Ghana and there are now more than 20 medical school faculty and their students engaged in work with Ghanaian partners.
UMMS offers a variety of clinical electives with top Ghanaian medical schools in various cities throughout Ghana, including:

- University of Ghana (Korle Bu Teaching Hospital), Accra
- University of Development Studies (School of Medicine), Tamale
- University of Cape Coast (School of Medical Sciences), Cape Coast
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (School of Medical Sciences and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital), Kumasi

**About Ghana**

Located in southern West Africa, Ghana is bordered by Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Togo. It is a country with diverse people and cultures. The blending of traditional and modern seem incongruous at times; people dress in traditional clothes, yet cell phones are prolific in even the most remote areas and texting friends and family is as common a form a communication as in the US. Ruins such as Cape Coast Castle remind and educate travelers of Ghana’s history and involvement in the slave trade. At the same time, Ghana offers beach resorts and national parks with elephants the size of a public bus.

**Language:** Unless otherwise noted in specific site descriptions, physicians speak English, as do some of the patients. Twi (pronounced “chree”) is commonly spoken among most Ghanaians, and physicians or assistants will provide translations if the patients only speak Twi.

**Housing:** Unless otherwise noted, housing arrangements should be made through U-M and Ghanaian mentors or their specific program coordinators. Students might also consider booking housing through websites such as Hostels.com.

**Budget:** Unless otherwise noted in specific site descriptions, the budget shown provides a good estimate for a 1-month elective in Ghana.

**Please Note:**

- These costs are estimates; actual costs may be higher or lower.
- Students are still responsible for tuition payments to UMMS.
- The required U-M Health Insurance will be purchased on your behalf and students must reimburse the Office of Medical Student Education (OMSE).
- Estimated costs for vaccinations include Hepatitis A & B, Typhoid, Polio, Yellow Fever, Meningococcal Meningitis, and Rabies. This estimation does not include any routine vaccinations that may need to be updated or insurance coverage for vaccinations.
- Avoid Credit Cards in Ghana! (High Theft Rate).
- Better to use ATM with Debit Card (VISA ONLY).
- It’s easier to exchange currency than to get money from ATMs, which frequently dispense larger denominations. Local banks may not be able to exchange the larger bill for a smaller denomination.
- Keep your money in multiple locations and carry a variety of denominations with you.

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**Budget Item: (1-Month Estimate) | Cost**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airfare (round trip)</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host School Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$270.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$211.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Fee</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Health Insurance: HTH Worldwide</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Passport Application</td>
<td>$135.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
<td>$814.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa Application</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ESTIMATED Total:** $3,853.00
Institution Specific Information

University of Ghana (UG)
UG was founded in 1948 and is the oldest and largest of the thirteen Ghanaian universities and tertiary institutions. The main campus sits about 8 miles northeast of the capital city, Accra, which has an estimated urban population of more than 4 million. The health science campus, including the UG Medical School (UGMS) and the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, lies about 2 miles west of Accra or about 11 miles from the University campus. Because of the UMMS history with UG, OBGYN has been the preferred elective, but other UMMS students have done their electives in the departments of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Internal Medicine, and Surgery.

Housing: Students who complete their elective at UG are offered accommodations at the International Student Hostel, which is about a 20-minute walk to the hospital wards. A daily shuttle to the hospital departs at 7:45am. Rate is about 10 USD/night (15 cedis). If there are no vacancies at the hostel, students can request to stay at the Dean's Guest House Annex (approximately 30 USD/night).

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
Over 1 million people live in Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana. Kumasi is located in the Ashanti region of Ghana and the city is located about four hours from Accra. It is known as the “cultural center” of Ghana and is home to West Africa’s largest open-air market.

KNUST aims to be the premier center of excellence in teaching and research. By offering an advanced teaching and research environment, it is working toward fostering the growth of the industrial and socio-economic environment of Ghana. Founded in 1975, the School of Medical Sciences at KNUST has four departments: Molecular medicine, Department of Anatomy, Department of Surgery and Department of Medicine.

Housing: The GETFund Student Hostel provides main student housing. Located on the Komfo Anokye (pronounced “Komfa Nochay”) Teaching Hospital property, a shared room with communal baths and toilet facilities can be found at 10 USD/night. No cooking equipment provided (plan accordingly).
University of Development Studies (UDS)

Tamale is the fourth largest city in Ghana and a major transportation hub in Northern Ghana. Tamale’s primary industry is agriculture and seasonal farming the city supplies cereal, yam and meat for most of the country. While English is the official language, many people also speak Dagboni, a language spoken by the Dagomba people.

The UDS School of Medicine was founded in 1996 and offered a traditional curriculum until 2007 when problem-based learning was introduced. Students receive interactive training with a focus on holistic medical education and learn through field-based training. In addition to the Tamale campus, UDS has three other campuses (Navrongo, Nyankpala, and Wa), which help the University achieve its mission of bridging the academic world with the community.

Housing: Please make arrangements with U-M mentors/Ghanaian program administrators.

University of Cape Coast (UCC)

Cape Coast is the center of the former British colonial capital and the site of the largest former slave-trading center in West Africa. It was the capital of Ghana until 1877 when the capital was moved to Accra. The shoreline of Ghana, running from the Ivory Coast to Togo, features palm-lined beaches and the remains of European coastal forts.

The School of Medical Sciences at UCC was established in response to the deficit of healthcare workers, especially doctors. UCC’s goal is to train enough doctors to supplement the number of doctors trained at the other three medical schools in Ghana. The curriculum uses a community-based approach to identify the common causes of morbidity and mortality in rural Ghana. Through UCC’s novel curriculum, students learn early in their training about the science and care of patients, as well as the social, cultural, environmental and other factors that impact the health of their patients.

Other Tips for Enjoying Ghana

1. Bring 2 small suitcases instead of one large one; work with your travel mates to avoid redundancy.
2. Pack bug spray, mosquito nets, sunscreen, flashlight, water purification tablets, currency converter/plug adapter, and light weight clothing. Bring a backpack and guidebook for weekend traveling. If you hope to participate in deliveries, bring your own scrubs, gloves, masks, head covers, socks, alcohol wipes, aloe sanitary gels and maybe detol/pinesol.
3. Professional attire is expected. Ghanaians dress professionally despite heat and humidity. Button down shirts and slacks/khakis are appropriate for men; women wear conservative tops and skirts or dress pants. Outside of work, men and women do not commonly wear shorts and skin exposure should be kept to a minimum (for modesty and for sun exposure).
4. Bring reading material as there is often downtime in the hostel and the satellite cable is inconsistent.

For more information and testimonials:
Global REACH website (http://globalreach.med.umich.edu/),
Office of Medical Student Education website (http://www.med.umich.edu/medschool/osp/),
M4 Student Resource Binder (globalreach.med.umich.edu/education/students/elective)

Contact Global REACH
(tel) 734-615-5692
(email) globalreach@med.umich.edu