

BEYOND TRADITIONAL BORDERS SUMMER INTERNSHIPS
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Beyond Traditional Border Mission

The mission of the Beyond Traditional Borders (BTB) Initiative is to foster the creation of globally appropriate health technologies that address the pressing health needs of the developing world. By engaging students through a novel multi-disciplinary educational program, we challenge them to reach beyond their usual geographic and disciplinary experiential borders and to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to advance such innovative technologies. BTB has established a new Global Health Technologies (GLHT) curriculum that broadens understanding of disease processes and associated advancements within the health technology field, incorporating this understanding with important world health issues. Furthermore, the program presents real-world global health design challenges to students, encouraging the development of meaningful solutions with the potential to make a real impact today.

BTB GLHT Summer Internships

The BTB GLHT Summer Internship program gives Rice University undergraduate students – both science and non-science majors – first-hand exposure to health care in resource constrained settings. The internship program serves to:

- Improve students' understanding of the constraints (infrastructural, cultural, political, educational, technological, etc...) under which such care is provided
- Inspire ideas for appropriate technological solutions to medical care issues
- Guide the students in the development of global health technologies that are responsive to care constraints.

In partnership with clinics, schools, and organizations working in developing countries, the internships allow students to advance in a real-world setting their solution to a Global Health Design Challenge Project developed at Rice through their Global Health Technologies Minor coursework.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the BTB GLHT Summer Internship program, students must:

- be undergraduate students in good standing at Rice University
- have successfully completed BIOE260, BIOE301, or BIOE451/452 by the start of the internship and received at least a 'B' in the course
- have a GPA of 3.0 or better
- be 18 years of age or older

Interested students will be asked to provide:

- a completed application
- a statement of interest
- a copy of their transcripts
- two letters of recommendation

Some applicants will be invited to interview, and interns will be selected from amongst the interviewees. Before beginning the internship, a signed participation agreement, student information form, a signed non-program activities form, and proof of passport, immunizations and insurance must be submitted to BTB. *Deadlines and dates of interest are outlined on the last page in the program calendar.*

Costs & Funding

The BTB GLHT Summer Internships are fully funded experiences, covering the cost of travel (airfare, visa, and traveler's insurance), immunizations and prophylaxis, housing, and a stipend for day to day living expenses (e.g. food and local transportation)

Travel

Roundtrip airfare from Houston to the site of the internship will be provided. Should interns prefer to depart from/return to a city other than Houston, BTB will accommodate the request, but interns will be responsible for the difference in airfare should there be one. Upon host country arrival and departure, ground transportation from/to the airport to/from the clinic site of their internship will be provided by the hosting organization. The cost of any required visas will be reimbursed, if not already had by the program participants. Please note a passport is required prior to securing a visa. Participants must secure their own passport, and provide a photocopy to BTB by the day of orientation. Travelers' emergency & repatriation insurance will also be provided if not already had by program participants.

Immunizations & Prophylaxis

BTB will reimburse the cost of a visit to a travel medicine clinic, for any CDC required and recommended immunizations for the country of their internship and for the cost of malaria prophylaxis for the duration of their internship.

Housing

Interns will be provided housing within reasonable proximity to the site at which they will be working. If transportation will be required for the daily commute, a supplement to the stipend will be provided. Interns will share a residence, but can expect to have their own bedroom. The housing provided will have running water, electricity, and be selected with consideration for safety and security.

Stipend

Interns will be provided with an allowance to cover day to day living expenses, the cost of meals, and their portion of any household expenses incurred during the duration of their internship.

Refund Policy

After a signed participation agreement is received, the participating student is subject to a refund policy. If the student withdraws from the program, whether before the start of the internship or after, the student must refund BTB for any expenses incurred on the student's behalf up to the point of withdrawal (e.g. airfare, housing deposits, etc...).

Orientation

After acceptance into the program, interns will be invited to a two-day orientation session with presentations and an opportunity for Q&A with BTB program faculty and staff, former interns, and when possible representatives from intern hosting organizations. The presentations will provide information on BTB and the GLHT Summer Internship Program, including: an overview of the internship experience; general intern responsibilities and expected work product; a primer on the OwlsBeyondBorders.com internships blog; review of the code of conduct and emergency response plan; program contact information for the US and at the internship site; communication (phone and internet) while abroad; what expenses are covered/reimbursed by the program; how and when interns will receive funding; reiteration of passport and VISA requirements; and pre-trip recommended reading. The interns will break into groups to discuss country specific issues, such as: background & culture of each internship site; potential health and safety risks; immunizations and vaccinations required and recommended prior to departure; required malaria prophylaxis and other medicines recommended be taken; medical and professional services available/lacking in country; and what to expect on a typical day in country and at the host site. A travel packet with all this information in hardcopy as well as personal travel documents will be provided at this time.

Upon the first day of their internship at their host site, interns will meet their internship host. The meeting will serve as an opportunity to review internship expectations for both student and host, including: implementation of the BTB assigned GLHT project, assignment of a site specific project, and identification of an intern selected project; other general responsibilities and expected work product; a facilities tour; an introduction to site staff, including their project mentor(s); and an opportunity for Q&A.

Program General Policies & Travel Guidelines

Local Laws

While in a foreign country, visitors are subject to its laws and to the repercussions associated with breaking them. It is expected that interns will have read the US State Department's information on the country to which they are traveling prior to their departure and will be mindful of the basic local laws and customs.

Safety While Traveling

While traveling abroad, interns will be expected to avoid situations that put their personal safety and well-being in jeopardy, including taking care to:

- deal only with authorized agents when exchanging money to avoid violating local laws
- not leave luggage unattended in public areas and never accept packages from strangers
- not become a target for thieves by wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry
- not carry excessive amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards
- follow program guidelines regarding drugs, alcohol, risk-limited and political activities

Controlled & Illegal Substances

In some foreign countries, some prescription medications are considered to be controlled substances. Interns taking prescription medication are advised to become familiar with any drug restrictions in the country to be visited.

While abroad, avoid using illicit drugs or drinking excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages – even if you are of legal drinking age in your host country – and associating with people who do. It is expected that interns will have read the attached document on drugs and alcohol.

Participation in Non-program and Risk-limited Activities

Interns that choose to participate in non-program and/or risk-limited activities are proceeding independently and entirely at their own risk. Interns are required to sign a statement fully releasing Rice, BTB, the internship host organization and their representatives from any claims, damages, and liabilities whatsoever arising in connection with participation in such activities.

Participation in Political Activities

When overseas, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly or where anti-American sentiments may be expressed.

In the Event of a Crisis/Emergency

In the unlikely event of a crisis or emergency, it is recommended that student travelers abroad take the following precautions:

- Make sure you have a signed, valid passport and entry visas (if applicable). Be sure to fill in the emergency information page of your passport before departure.
- Leave copies of your passport data page and entry visas (if applicable) with family or friends at home. BTB will require a copy be provided to program representatives prior to departure.
- Leave copies of your itinerary and overseas contact information (address, email, and phone), as well as that of program representatives, with family or friends at home, so that you can be readily contacted in case of an emergency.
- Keep your host program informed of your whereabouts and provide additional contact information (if relevant), especially if participating in non-program and/or risk-limited activities.
- Read the Consular Information Sheets, Public Announcements and/or Travel Warnings (if applicable) for the countries to which you are traveling. Check for updates prior to departure.
- Register with the US Embassy in the country to which you are traveling, as soon as possible.

International Travel Insurance

Travel emergency & repatriation insurance will be provided for the duration of the internship to program participants, if not already had by the student or covered under their parent's policy. Insurance secured by the BTB summer internship program will cover trip cancellation/interruption/delay, lost/stolen/delayed baggage, emergency evacuation and repatriation of remains, accidental death and dismemberment, medical expenses, and 24-hr worldwide medical, traveler's, and emergency cash transfer assistance.

If a crisis should arise, student interns should immediately contact their primary program representatives, both at BTB/Rice University and within the host country. If it is determined that for the safety and well-being of the participant it is necessary to end the internship and return the student to the US, BTB will make arrangements to do so without delay.

BEYOND TRADITIONAL BORDERS SUMMER INTERNSHIPS
PROGRAM CALENDAR

Spring 2009

February – April

Application Process:

Applications are made available	January 22 nd
Application submission deadline	February 20th
Invitation for interviews extended	February 24 th
Interviews are held, 4-7pm	February 25 th
Acceptance into internship extended	February 27 th
Participation response deadline	March 9 th

Submission of the following constitutes formal acceptance of the internship offer:

- signed participation agreement
- student information form
- non-program activities form

Pre-trip Orientation Meetings* April 2nd & 3rd

Summer 2009

May – July

International Internship:

Interns depart**	May 16 th (arrive May 18 th)
On-site Orientation	May 18 th
~ Internship Projects Execution ~	
On-site Projects Presentations	TBD
Interns return**	(depart July 10 th) July 11 th

Fall 2009

September

Post-internship Follow-up Meeting	September 2 nd
BTB Global Health Lecture Series – Projects Poster Session	September TBD

* Please note this is during spring recess

** Exact dates may vary depending upon internship site