

## **CGHD Zambia Southern Province Technical Assistance Internship Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Am I limited to only working on 1 project?***

You will be placed in a project that best fits your skills, yet there may be times when your assistance is needed in other areas.

### ***Will I have an end product when I leave?***

The projects involved in this program are ongoing, and it is rare for a student to see a project to completion. You will be an active participant in moving the projects forward and will benefit from the skills you develop as you do this!

### ***I just moved to Boston, got my apartment, and started school – I don't know if I can move and deal with all of the details!***

Don't let the details hold you back. If you are passionate about the work in Zambia and are offered a position, you WILL sort out the details if you are accepted. This opportunity can help you focus your MPH and career!

### ***I am a first semester/first year MPH student and I do not have BU transcript yet, what do I do?***

You can send us an unofficial transcript of the courses you are currently taking, as well as an unofficial transcript from the last university you attended.

### ***MPH students who are not enrolled for at least 6 credits during fall and spring semesters, are not eligible for financial aid, and may have to start repaying financial aid loans. How have past students dealt with this?***

Students in this program may obtain Code 3 (PART/FULL TIME) status. This designation allows student interns to remain eligible for financial aid, and keeps eligible loans deferred and their grace period intact.

### ***English is my only language, will I still be considered for the internship?***

English is the official language of Zambia and the local Zambian staff members speak English as well as several other local languages. If you are out in the field you will be accompanied by a staff member who can communicate with non English speakers.

### ***What is expected of me once I start work in Zambia?***

You will be expected to be a full time employee/student. This requires that you work 40 hours per week, and you may find that out in the field you will work longer hours (due to travel and the nature of the work). Zambians are generally hard working people and many of the staff members work longer hours and even into Saturdays.

### ***What are working hours while in Zambia?***

Generally the work hours are 8:30 am – 5pm with time for lunch.

### ***I would like to have an authentic experience and interaction with the community – is this possible?***

Yes, this is possible. Your interaction with the Zambian staff will expose you to much of the local culture, and it is not uncommon for meals to be cooked and shared together at the office. Also, depending on your internship, you will be out in the field, traveling to other communities to collect survey data. Past interns have taken some of their free time to volunteer at other local organizations as well. Your experiences will also vary according to where you are located in Zambia.

### ***What is the climate like in Zambia?***

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Zambia has two main seasons, the rainy season (November to April), and the dry season (May to October/November). The dry season is cool and dry from May to August, and hot and dry from September to October/November.

### ***How far does the \$3000 stipend really go?***

Every intern is different in how they manage their stipend, but according to past interns, you can find ways to use the money wisely. Shop for food in the local markets, where the prices may be lower and you can bargain. Some students have been able to save some of their stipend for short trips, and others have broken even.

### ***Can you apply at the end of your studies?***

All things being equal, the department will favor those who have not yet completed their required practicum.

### ***How have past interns spent their free time?***

Past interns have spent their time outside of the internship doing a variety of activities, and their biggest recommendation is be creative! Ping-Pong has become a favorite among the interns, as well as weekend travel, running and reading.

## **More details:**

### **Benefits**

All interns will be provided airfare, housing, medical evacuation insurance, visa, and a fixed living allowance to live modestly.

### **Practicum**

This internship may be used to fulfill the MPH Practicum requirement.

### **Requirements**

A 6-month placement commitment in Zambia is required. Selected interns will also be required to obtain a CORI form and undergraduate transcripts and diploma in order to apply for a Zambian volunteer work permit.

Upload the completed application package to the Zambia page on the IH Blast. Please email Emily Morin ([emorin@bu.edu](mailto:emorin@bu.edu)) if you have questions. Application process is competitive; interviews will be offered to the most promising candidates.