

# Careers in Global Health

**IDS**A INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
FOUNDATION

In an increasingly interconnected world, infectious diseases can spread more easily than they ever have before. Careers in global health span clinical care, policy, research and public health. Key considerations in choosing this career path include language barriers, the amount of time you're willing to spend overseas and the type of training you'll need to be successful.

## Developing an Infectious Diseases Career in Global Health

### Define your career goals

Global health careers offer a variety of focus areas. When defining your career goals, consider which of these areas you might pursue:

- Research
- Public health/implementation
- Policy
- Clinical care

### Consider these career factors

- Available administrative, laboratory, clinical and regulatory infrastructure and US-funding through institutions like NIH/Fogarty, CDC, USAID, PEPFAR, the Department of Defense, etc.
- Language barriers and the need to learn a second language
- Length of time overseas and preference to move or commute
- Safety concerns and steps needed to ensure security
- Areas where diseases of interest are endemic
- Personal factors, including financial debt, family planning, spouse's job and other personal matters

### Gain knowledge about global ID

#### **FULL TIME**

- A one-to-three-year overseas stay is critical for new individuals embarking on a global health career in order to learn what it's like to live and work abroad.
- Consider that the timeline required to accomplish project goals may be longer in areas that are resource-limited due to Internal Review Board review, requirements for a local medical license, etc.
- Expatriate support for faculty abroad is not well defined at many U.S. academic centers. Negotiate up front regarding housing, security, schools for your children, trips home, local transportation, health insurance and evacuation insurance.
- Ensure you are able to maintain certification, as well as skills in internal medicine and infectious diseases.

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### **COMMUTE**

- If your preference is to commute, many professionals recommend spending a few years abroad initially to better understand the countries you wish to serve and/or research.
- Mentoring and conducting research in resource-limited countries via the “commute” method presents unique challenges. Understand the international country’s health care and research infrastructure to determine whether working from the U.S. and commuting is logistically possible.
- Consider the permissions required from your institution to travel back and forth and plan who will cover clinical work while you are away. Understand that you may need to return to do clinical service.
- Form a strong local team if commuting often.
- Research evacuation and health insurance that will cover you while you are away.

### **COLLABORATION**

- For certain focus areas, such as health economics, biostatistics or basic or translational science, you may be able to work on global health projects without travelling if you have a strong overseas collaborator.

## Explore global health career resources

- Connect and network with professionals who have worked in global health.
- Establish professional and peer mentors (within and outside of ID).
- Create a Personal Development Plan or Individualized Development Plan using the resources below:
  - [www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4603](http://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4603)
  - <http://myidp.sciencecareers.org>
- Consider dedicated training in research, including coursework, a master’s or doctorate degree, clinical research and more. Explore the following resources:

### **POSTDOCTORATE FUNDING**

- Fogarty Global Health Fellows D43 Program ([www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/scholars-fellows-global-health.aspx](http://www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/scholars-fellows-global-health.aspx))
- Fulbright U.S. Scholar ([www.cies.org/program/core-fulbright-us-scholar-program](http://www.cies.org/program/core-fulbright-us-scholar-program))
- NIH T32 grants (<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/training-grants/t32>)
- Non-NIH funding opportunities ([www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx](http://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx))
- Burroughs Wellcome Fund Collaborative Research Travel Grants ([www.bwfund.org/funding-opportunities/biomedical-sciences/collaborative-research-travel-grants/](http://www.bwfund.org/funding-opportunities/biomedical-sciences/collaborative-research-travel-grants/))

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### **EARLY CAREER FUNDING**

- NIH International Research Scientist Development Award (K01) ([www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-002.html](http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-002.html))
- NIH Research Career Development Awards (K awards) (<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development>)
- Clinical Scientist Institutional Career Development Program Award (K12) (<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development/k12>)

### Learn more about public policy opportunities

Careers in public health or public policy require different skills focused more on implementation and training and less on the clinical issues you may be used to facing. There are opportunities at various career levels, including:

### **POSTDOCTORATE**

- CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service ([www.cdc.gov/eis](http://www.cdc.gov/eis))
- USAID Global Health Fellows II Program (<https://www.phi.org/our-work/programs/usaids-global-health-fellows-program-ii/>)
- AAAS Science and Technology Fellowships ([www.aaas.org/program/science-technology-policy-fellowships](http://www.aaas.org/program/science-technology-policy-fellowships))

### **MID-CAREER**

- Johns Hopkins Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Fellowship ([www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/emergingbioleaders/](http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/emergingbioleaders/))
- Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellows ([www.healthpolicyfellows.org/about](http://www.healthpolicyfellows.org/about))

### **OTHER**

- USAID Bureau of Global Health ([www.usaid.gov/work-with-us/careers/vacancy-announcements?field\\_bureau\\_io\\_](http://www.usaid.gov/work-with-us/careers/vacancy-announcements?field_bureau_io_))
- CDC Global HIV and TB (<https://www.cdc.gov/globalhivtb/who-we-are/careers/jobs.html>)
- WHO ([www.who.int/employment/vacancies/en](http://www.who.int/employment/vacancies/en))
- ITECH ([www.go2itech.org](http://www.go2itech.org))
- FHI360 ([www.fhi360.org/about-us](http://www.fhi360.org/about-us))
- INTRAH ([www.intrahealth.org](http://www.intrahealth.org))

### Find opportunities to serve

- Peace Corps Global Health Service Partnership ([www.peacecorps.gov/stories/category/global-health-service-partnership/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/stories/category/global-health-service-partnership/))
- Partners in Health (<https://www.pih.org/pages/employment>)
- Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders) ([www.msf.org/en/work-msf](http://www.msf.org/en/work-msf))
- Last Mile Health (<http://lastmilehealth.org/>)
- Texas Children's Global Health Corps (<https://bipai.org/get-involved>)