

International Clinical Internships in Kenya

General Information about ICDR-Kenya

ICDR-Kenya is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities in Kenya through rehabilitation-focused education, service provision and research. ICDR-Kenya offers international clinical internships in Western Kenya in partnership with the Disability Service Programme (for physiotherapy and occupational therapy students) and Yellow House Health and Outreach Services (for speech-language pathology students).

(1) Disability Service Programme (DSP)

The Disability Service Programme (DSP) office and clinic is located in Opapo, a village outside Homa Bay in Nyanza Province. The DSP clinic is in operation Tuesdays and Thursdays with the remaining days of the week spent in the surrounding districts doing home visits, outreach clinics, and school visits. As the only community focused rehabilitation organization providing services for people with disabilities in the area, the DSP is in high demand.

Disclaimers/Precautions (If Any)

This placement may not be suitable for students who:

- May have difficulty being immersed in a very different culture with prominent issues such as gender roles, polygamy, and poverty
- Have severe environmental or dietary allergies (The nearest major hospital is 2-3 hours away by vehicle in Kisumu)
- Feel uncomfortable with a rustic lifestyle i.e. limited access to running water and electricity

General Info about the Placement

This international placement site has the potential to enhance skills and problem solving abilities in a way that Canadian sites may not. The development of 'soft' skills, such as resourcefulness, cultural competence, adaptability and personal reflection, cannot be avoided in this uniquely challenging environment. It is essential that interested students understand that the development of Western 'hard' skills is not necessarily a focus of this placement rather an appreciation of global health challenges will be fostered.

Within the context of a community-based rehabilitation (CBR) programme, students will work with a wide variety of clients, patient populations and clinical presentations. Children comprise a large percentage of clients seen.

Supervision

ICDR-Kenya strongly supports the importance of working with local professionals to truly appreciate the influence of local culture within the context of local health needs and services.

The placement supervisor is either a Kenyan physiotherapist or occupational therapist, and may not be of the same profession as the visiting student due to limitations in availability.

Accommodations

While students have the option of staying at a local motel, students generally stay at the household of the DSP founder, Mr. Carilus Okidi. This enriching experience allows visitors to have a better understanding of the Kenyan culture and lifestyle.

(2) Yellow House Health and Outreach Services

Yellow House provides speech and language therapy services in Western Kenya in collaboration with local community-based organizations. These services include direct speech, language, communication, feeding/swallowing, cognitive, literacy and/or educational therapy services. They provide these services in classrooms, homes, educational assessment resource centres (EARC) and hospitals in 4 Western districts.

Disclaimers/Precautions (If Any)

This placement may not be suitable for students who:

- May have difficulty being immersed in a very different culture with prominent issues such as gender roles, polygamy, and poverty
- Struggle to adapt their clinical style to a setting with no formal or standardized assessment tools and minimal resources

General Info about the Placement

This placement provides a unique opportunity for students who are at the end of their training to put into practice the clinical skills they've developed throughout their training in a supportive environment that empowers students to start working as an independent clinician.

Yellow House provides services across different government sites (education and health) as well as within the community. Yellow House is the only speech and language therapy service provider in the country that works within the public sector. As a result, you'll not only have a caseload of a variety of different diagnosis you'll make a lasting impact on the service development of the profession in Kenya.

You'll have the opportunity to work within different MDTs and learn and develop the soft skills required to be a culturally competent, adaptable and resourceful clinician.

Supervision

Your supervision will be directed by David, an SLT from Uganda who has been working for over 6 years. David will also ensure you get the opportunity to work alongside the different members

of the Yellow House team (teacher trainer, parent liaison officers and SLTs) to ensure you get the most out of your experience.

Rachael (Yellow House CEO) is a British trained SLT and she will support the set up of the placement and is likely to be around for part of your placement to provide advice on adapting your clinical style to the Kenyan context.

Accommodations

Yellow House advises that students stay within the local community in order to develop a full understanding of the population we work with.

Yellow House will help you find safe and secure accommodation either in Vihiga (rural) or Kisumu (urban).

For more information, please contact Ellen Leung, Vice-chair of Education at:
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