International Site Snapshot

University of Rwanda: Kigali or Butare, Rwanda

The information presented here is intended to serve as a guide as you explore international rotation/internship sites. The Department of Global Health aims to provide the most up-to-date information possible, but information is subject to change. Once you have applied and been accepted to a site, you will receive more detailed information about that site.

Program Overview

This rotation/internship is coordinated by the Global Engagement Institute (GEI). Clinical rotations are at one of the University of Rwanda's two teaching hospitals: University Central Hospital Kigali (CHUK) or University Central Hospital Butare (CHUB). After you are accepted to this rotation, you will be asked to indicate your specialty choices and hospital preference. GEI will do its best to accommodate your preferences but all assignments are subject to availability.

CHUK is in the center of Kigali and is the main public health institution in the country with over 300 beds. CHUB is located in Butare, which is a city in the Southern Province of Rwanda and the capital of the Huye District. All the district hospitals work with CHUK and CHUB for patient referral. Therefore, students will have the opportunity to see patients from all over the country.

For research rotations, MPH and MHA internships, GEI customizes the program and location based on your interests, learning objectives and availability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site accepts the following DMU programs:</th>
<th>DO, DPM, MPH, MHA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specialties offered at this site:</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Neonatology, Cardiology, General Surgery, Orthopedics and other specialties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Requirements:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Date Restrictions:</td>
<td>You may not begin this rotation/internship during the week of April 7, due to the Genocide Memorial Day. It's fine if a rotation is in progress during this time, but it's not possible to start a new rotation/internship during this week.</td>
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As you are considering this rotation/internship, you may want to research Rwanda to learn about its history, culture, social customs, and current events. Here are some resources to get started:

- CDC: [Health Information for Travelers to Rwanda](#)
- WHO: [Rwanda](#)
- Travel.State.Gov: [Country Information Rwanda](#)
- CIA World Factbook: [Rwanda](#)
- BBC Country Profile: [Rwanda](#)
- University of Rwanda [Website](#)
- GEI [Website](#)
Note about Completing a Rotation/Internship in Rwanda in April

April has a very special meaning for many Rwandans because it represents the beginning of the annual genocide commemoration. Public life adjusts to the mourning of the victims’ families. But the hospitals will obviously continue to do their daily work. What it means is that the city won’t be as lively as it usually is but the experience will be deepened at the same time.

Each year, the Genocide Memorial Day is on April 7th. It usually opens to a full week of commemorations and memorial services in the country. Afterwards, life is slowly starting again but usually there are fewer events or activities held in April. If you stay with a family (homestay), they will likely invite you to join the commemorations with them, if you feel comfortable to do so.

Language

Rwanda has four official languages: Kinyarwanda, English, French and Swahili. Kinyarwanda is the national language of Rwanda and is the first language of almost the entire population of the country. While it’s likely that you’ll find that some healthcare workers speak English, some may prefer to speak in French, and the patient population will speak mostly Kinyarwanda.

Students have told us that patients and health care staff truly appreciate it when visiting students learn basic phrases and some medical vocabulary in their local language.

- To get started learning Kinyarwanda, you can search for YouTube videos “Learn Kinyarwanda”
- Other options include the uTalk Classic Learn Kinyarwanda app which is available for a small fee in the App Store and the Speak Kinyarwanda app which is available for a small fee through Google Play or the App Store.

Immunizations

Consult the CDC website to check the immunization requirements and recommendations of your site country, countries you will transit through, and countries you plan to visit.

Information about yellow fever vaccine requirements from CDC: Health Information for Travelers to Rwanda:

“Country entry requirement: The government of Rwanda requires proof of yellow fever vaccination if travelling from a country with risk of yellow fever or a country with an active yellow fever outbreak (this does not include the US – see complete list: countries with risk of yellow fever virus (YFV) transmission)

Yellow fever vaccine availability in the United States is currently limited. If you need to be vaccinated before your trip, you may need to travel some distance and schedule your appointment well in advance.”
### Accommodations in Kigali

| Type(s) of Accommodation available: | ☒ Homestay/Host Family ☐ Dormitory ☒ Hotel/Guesthouse  
☐ Airbnb ☐ Apartment/House (solo)  
☒ Apartment/House (with other visitors) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|

GEI arranges your accommodations based on the accommodation preference you list in your GEI application.

Are some meals included in accommodation fee? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Varies*

*Homestay: Breakfast included and Dinner included 5 x per week (excluding weekends); Guesthouse: Breakfast included; Apartment/house: No meals are included

### Accommodations in Butare

| Type(s) of Accommodation available: | ☐ Homestay/Host Family ☐ Dormitory ☒ Hotel/Guesthouse  
☒ Airbnb ☐ Apartment/House (solo)  
☐ Apartment/House (with other visitors) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|

GEI arranges your accommodations based on the accommodation preferences you list in your GEI application.

Are some meals included in accommodation fee? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Varies*

If yes, what meals? ☒ Breakfast ☐ Lunch ☐ Dinner

*In some guesthouses, breakfast is included.

### Transportation in Kigali

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<tr>
<th>Arrival Airport:</th>
<th>Kigali International Airport (KGL)</th>
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| Airport to Site Transfer: | Organized by GEI.  
You are responsible for sharing your arrival details with GEI site coordinator(s).  
You are responsible for organizing and paying for your trip to the airport when you depart from Rwanda. |

How will I get to the rotation each day?  
Your daily transportation will depend on the location of your accommodations.  
You can get to CHUK by using public transportation or a taxi.

Additional information about transportation in Kigali:  
- The bus system in Kigali can get take some getting used to, and sometimes the schedule and stop locations might not be the most convenient option for your route. (At times, commutes may take over one hour.)  
- Another option is to take taxis.

### Transportation in Butare

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<th>Arrival Airport:</th>
<th>Kigali International Airport (KGL)</th>
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| Airport to Site Transfer: | Organized by GEI.  
You are responsible for sharing your arrival details with GEI site coordinator(s).  
- A private car will be arranged to take you from Kigali to Butare for a fee.  
- If you prefer, there is also a public bus option to get from Kigali to Butare. |
How will I get to the rotation each day?

You can get to CHUB by walking or taking a moto-taxi.

## Connectivity

| Cell phones: | • Check with your US carrier to learn about international coverage options.  
• Once you arrive at the site, you can explore the option of getting a local SIM card.  
  • To use a local SIM, you'll need an unlocked phone. Before your trip, ask your US carrier or research to find out if your phone is unlocked. |
| Internet access* (including WiFi): | • Most accommodations have WiFi included, but it is not guaranteed.  
• If Internet isn't available in your accommodations, you have the option to rent a portable WiFi device from GEI.  
  * Reliable access to the internet and to WiFi access is not guaranteed during your international rotation/internship so plan accordingly. |
| Other tips: | WhatsApp is a widely-used instant messaging and voice calling app. It may be a great way to keep in touch with contacts back home and those you meet locally in Rwanda. |

## Estimated Costs

*Fees associated with international rotations/internships are the responsibility of the student.*

- The following figures are based on 2019 student experiences.
  - While we strive to provide the most updated information, costs are subject to change.
- All estimated costs are listed in US dollars, but in many cases, you'll pay with local currency.

| Program Fees: | $1350 — Payable to GEI |
| Visa: | Learn about visas for your destination.  
Visa rules are subject to change, so always check the entry requirements for your citizenship. |
| Immunizations: | These costs will vary based on your history and the required and recommended vaccines for the country. Travel vaccinations are not typically covered by insurance. |
| Airfare: | Varies depending on your airport of origin and personal travel plans. |
| Other Fees: | Optional — Indicate on your GEI application if you wish to participate in these optional activities:  
• Cultural Introduction Day — $78  
• 8 hours of a private beginning Kinyarwanda class taken over the first two weeks of your rotation/internship — $120  
Optional rental of portable WiFi device (connect up to 10 devices) from GEI: $15/month, then buy a data plan, between $20-30/month |
<table>
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<th>Accommodations:</th>
<th>Included in Program Fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meals:</td>
<td>$5-15/day</td>
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| Ground transportation to the site (upon arrival): | Kigali — Arrival included in Program Fees; you will be responsible for your transportation to the airport for your departure. The cost will depend on where your accommodations are located.  
Butare — $200 Round trip in a private car arranged by GEI (Cost can be split with other students if you are arriving together.)  
There a public bus option to get from Kigali to Butare. |
| Daily Transportation to site: | Kigali — $3-15/day Cost varies if you choose public transportation or taxi.  
Butare — $0-6/day Cost varies if you choose to walk, take a taxi-moto, or arrange a morning taxi ride. |
| Miscellaneous Expenses: | These costs can vary greatly based on individual preferences.  
Some possible expenses to consider:  
• Local SIM card  
• WiFi access at internet cafes, etc.  
• Laundry  
• Transportation during free time  
• Meals at restaurants/cafes  
• Weekend tours/sightseeing |

If you have questions, reach out to us: globalhealth@dmu.edu