

The Alan Klass Memorial Program for Health Equity:

Travel to Low Resource Communities - International and Canada

Travel Award for Medical Student Early Summer Exposure and Electives

The Alan Klass Memorial Program for Health Equity within the Department of Community Health Sciences, Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences provides opportunities for undergraduate medical students to engage in learning activities that address health equity and social accountability, both local and global [1]. The Program provides support and guidance to medical students seeking elective placement or summer early exposure in low resource, under-served communities both international or in Canada.

The Alan Klass Memorial Program for Health Equity will award up to \$1500 (adjusted depending on available funds and number of applicants) to **undergraduate medical students** to support a 2-10 week experience in a low resourced environment, based on a written submission and application that meets the eligibility and criteria below.

Eligibility

Undergraduate medical students at the University of Manitoba are eligible. This award can be applied to travel between Jan 2019 – March 2020. Travel must be completed by March 1, 2020. Students may book their own travel and submit receipts and boarding passes for reimbursement of the award amount to the Department of Community Health Sciences.

Criteria

Students are encouraged to explore and develop their projects independently. There are some resources at U of M that may help in this process [2]. Projects that are suitable for consideration for the award are those whose activities and objectives satisfy the following criteria. The experience:

- is located in a low-resource country or low resource northern/rural/remote community setting in Canada.
- offers opportunity for community based learning.
- offers opportunities to engage with local community members on health care or health related projects.
- is at least 2 weeks in length.

OR

- is a national or international conference to address the health needs of underserved populations

Preference will be given to:

- Students who show prior interest and participate in related student interest groups focusing on global, Indigenous, immigrant and refugee or rural health.
- Students involved in learning opportunities in low resource communities locally or globally.
- Students who participate in programs that work to increase the community's capacity to deliver programming or services.

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Activities of the AKMP Electives Program

- The successful applicant will be matched with a faculty mentor for orientation, pre-departure preparation, access to reading resources, and to refine learning objectives and activities. Attending pre departure workshops and self-preparation are required.
- Students will keep a record of their experiences and activities (e.g. journal, logbook, blog) and a written reflection on their learning objectives during their elective. This will be submitted to faculty mentor for discussion.
- Upon return the student will participate in post departure activities including submission of a short report (2,000-2500 words) and deliver a presentation at a venue organized by AKMP for students and faculty to attend.

Goal of the AKMP Electives Award:

To promote opportunities for students to learn about community engagement, knowledge of health needs, community strengths, and how the determinants of health that impact low resource communities, globally and in Canada's.

Learning Objectives of the AKMP Elective program are defined within the context of the proposed elective. After completion of the elective, the student will be able to:

- Discuss the importance of community context in understanding a patient's and community's health status.
- Reflect on the determinants of health and how these factors impact the local community.
- Describe aspects of the history, culture, geography, and socioeconomic factors in the host community that are relevant to the health of the community.
- Analyze local efforts inside or outside the formal health system used to address health needs and priorities.
- Examine and make explicit their own beliefs and biases, and practice skills for critical self-awareness.
- Design approaches to improve communication in a cross cultural setting.
- Evaluate the impact of one's own presence and activities in the setting.

Application Process

The applicant submits **an application form** and **letter (up to 2 pages)** with a description of the proposed project, sponsoring agency with available website information, preceptor name, location, job, and title and any pertinent information. Include a brief essay of the applicant's interest in global or Indigenous health, list of learning objectives, and outline of academic and personal goals to attain.

Please submit the application to Dr. Sarah Lesperance at slesperance@mymts.net or S113, 750 Bannatyne Ave. The deadlines for application are as follows:

Travel	Deadline
Summer Early Exposures 2019	24 April 2020
Early Electives or Period 9/10 Electives	26 June 2020
Transition to Residency Selectives for 2020	06 Nov 2020
National/International Conferences	Any time, at least 1 month prior to travel.

Notification of awards will occur two weeks after submission of application. Successful

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applicants will begin pre departure training with travel to be completed by March 1, 2021.

Notes & References

[1] In 2006, the Tolkien Trust lent its support to the family of Dr. Alan Klass to develop the Alan Klass Memorial Program for Health Equity in the Faculty of Medicine. This Program assisted the undergraduate medical program to fulfill its commitment to social responsibility by funding a review that led to faculty support for an inner-city student run health clinic and other initiatives.

[2] UGME Electives Web Page:

<http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/education/undergraduate/electives.html>

UGME Summer Early Exposure Web Page:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/education/undergraduate/summerearlyexposure.html

U of M International Centre for Students:

http://umanitoba.ca/research/international_centre/exchange.html

Pre-departure Handbook:

[https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/education/undergraduate/media/Pre-Departure_Handbook_Final_Draft_2015\(1\).pdf](https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/education/undergraduate/media/Pre-Departure_Handbook_Final_Draft_2015(1).pdf)