

Guiding principles for global health volunteer and academic service-learning experiences at IUPUI

Prepared by the IUPUI Working Group on Global Health Volunteerism

In the development, administration, marketing, orientation, implementation and evaluation of global volunteering and academic service learning programming, we uphold the following core principles in our work with host communities:

1. An appropriate cross-cultural and ethical collaboration always respects the right of the host partner(s) to *define* the program, including the needs to be addressed and the role of the host.
2. All programs should value a *mutuality of learning* and demonstrate a respect for the knowledge and expertise of local professionals, allowing them to lead whenever possible.
3. All programs should demonstrate a respect for local governance and abide by the legal and ethical standards of the host partner(s) and host country(ies).
4. In the recruitment, preparation and supervision of program participants, every opportunity should be taken to educate and remind participants of the ethical and cross-cultural pitfalls of volunteering when there are disparities in power and affluence.
5. Every effort should be taken to insure the sustainability and continuity of programs with the host partner(s) in order to avoid the exploitation of the partner's needs for the volunteer's/learner's benefit. Unsustainable initiatives are unethical as well as unproductive.
6. All programs should be periodically and systemically evaluated for impact - positive and negative - on the host partner(s) as well as the participants.

These principles are adapted from work by Lasker et al. 2018 based on a “scoping review” of the literature spanning 27 sets of published guidelines. While these principles were developed specifically with global health programs in mind, the core ideas that inform these principles mirror those articulated for GSL more broadly through frameworks such as Fair-Trade Learning [Hartman & Chaire, 2014] and [Duarte 2016, 2017]. The principles are intended to serve as a touchstone to support enhanced reflexive practice on the part of program directors, staff, and participants. The Working Group on Global Health Volunteerism is currently at work to compile a toolkit to support integration of the principles into practice for IUPUI-sponsored global health volunteer and/or academic service-learning. The group welcomes feedback and comment at any time.

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