Global Health at Princeton
“The Global Health Program is unique in its interdisciplinary approach to resolving complex health problems.

With classes that explore a broad array of topics from the Affordable Care Act to the West African Ebola outbreak, the program taught me about the ways in which social, economic, and geopolitical factors impact health and wellbeing beyond what a physician can do alone. It has inspired me to look beyond medicine itself, to dedicate my career to transforming access to health from a privilege, to a right.”

Richard Lu’16
Rhodes Scholar
In 2014, Richard Lu (front row, third from left) spent the summer at Tropical Clinics in Kakamega, Kenya. He was tasked with designing and implementing an efficient digital EMR to streamline the clinic’s patient record system. He also wrote a research grant for a hypertension medication study in collaboration with the local hospital, and conducted community outreach to promote preventative screenings for rural patients. In 2015, Richard spent a portion of the summer working for The Biovac Institute, a public-private partnership in Pinelands, South Africa, which is working to become Africa’s first vaccine manufacturer. While there, he researched the unique challenges that vaccine developers face in Africa, and how technology transfer arrangements between developed countries and low-resource countries can improve production viability. Richard was a Rhodes Scholar and went on to study medicine at Harvard Medical School.
Welcome to GHP

Princeton students are part of a new global health generation — a generation that witnesses first-hand the severe health inequalities in the world and wants to do something about it. The Global Health Program (GHP) equips students with the cutting-edge tools, real-life experiences and critical perspectives to make meaningful change in a time plagued by both emerging and enduring health-related challenges.

Drawing upon Princeton’s unparalleled strengths in the social and natural sciences, public policy, engineering, and the humanities, we take our students to the front lines of global health. Our students thrive as they work with affected communities, health practitioners and researchers — whether in the field or in the lab — both in the United States and abroad.

Housed in the Center for Health and Wellbeing and supported by the School of Public and International Affairs and the Office of the Provost, the Global Health Program brings together students, faculty and postdoctoral fellows committed to academic rigor, a diversity of perspectives, and innovative approaches to the world’s most complex health-related problems. Through this interdisciplinary collaboration, we aim to produce a better understanding of the complex interplay of biology, social life, medical research and the political economy of health systems.

Our enduring mission is to produce nothing less than a critical and people-centered global health science prepared to take on the challenge of enacting humane, effective and sustainable policies and interventions, now and in the future.

Heather Howard & Jessica Metcalf
Co-directors of the Global Health Program
Why Global Health?

We live in an increasingly interconnected world that is full of promise yet also radically unequal, insecure and unhealthy. The spread of infectious diseases like Covid-19 across borders, struggles over access to treatments, and the rise in chronic diseases pose highly complex and often unpredictable challenges. Accelerating environmental change, wounds of war, the tolls of poverty and discrimination within precarious health systems create conditions of dire vulnerability.

How should we investigate and understand these phenomena? How can we design and carry out interventions that promote the health and wellbeing of both individuals and communities, now and in the long term?

The field of global health draws upon the expertise of anthropologists, biologists, chemists, economists, epidemiologists, engineers, historians, political scientists and many others. Together with activists, social entrepreneurs, policy experts and officials, we are challenged to articulate sustainable solutions to these complex problems.
“GHP emphasizes the critical thinking and interdisciplinary approach that is crucial to developing holistic solutions to complex health problems. The program instilled in me a global perspective that nourishes compassion, humility and thoughtfulness. I am forever grateful to the energetic and passionate professors and postdoctoral fellows who have built this family to have big hearts, sharp minds and strong spines. This community of friends has inspired me to continuously act ‘in the nation’s service and in the service of all nations.’”

Kanwal Matharu '13
Former CHW Advisory Council Member

“During my studies, I learned to think critically about a variety of fields through an array of perspectives and to imagine what my concerns would be if I were a scientist, a physician, a community health worker, a policymaker, an advocate or a journalist. This approach taught me not only to be more open to the differing opinions of stakeholders, but to anticipate disagreements and alternatives in my work.”

Mizzi Gomes '16
MA, Science & Health Journalism, Columbia Journalism School; Graduate Student, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
“The Global Health Program at the School of Public and International Affairs is one of our most vital programs. It produces and promotes faculty and student research that addresses the world’s most pressing health issues through an interdisciplinary lens.”

Amaney Jamal  
Dean, School of Public and International Affairs; Edwards S. Sanford Professor of Politics

“The Global Health Program connects faculty, students and researchers from a broad array of disciplines with health policy practitioners and the general public, cultivating a dynamic and multifaceted discussion about health and health policy.”

Janet Currie  
Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs; Co-director, Center for Health and Wellbeing
What We Do

The Global Health Program serves the broader Princeton community and offers students the opportunity to earn a certificate in Global Health and Health Policy. GHP is a hub for students interested in global health — whether they are seeking to participate in a summer internship in the United States or abroad, take health-related courses, find support for health-related thesis research, get involved with Princeton’s campus activities and events, or pursue plans for a career in global health.

The program brings together undergraduate students and researchers, policymakers and faculty. Students gain familiarity with the determinants of disease across societies; the role of medical technologies and interventions in health improvements; and the sociocultural, political and economic factors that shape health outcomes. Students in the program take a critical approach to health challenges on the ground, as well as the dominant projects, values and interventions within global health.

Through coursework, training in qualitative and quantitative methods, experiential learning and symposia, and closely mentored thesis research, GHP students confront the most pressing health-related issues of our time and produce new understandings of them. They go on to become change-makers in their fields and leaders in the movement toward a healthier, more just world.
“As a premed student, the Global Health Program felt like the perfect place to be, not only because of its amazing selection of courses and resources, but also because of the tight-knit community it fosters among faculty and students who come from a variety of disciplines.

Going into the medical field, I aspire to help patients through practicing medicine on an individual level as well as through influencing care on a larger, societal level. The Global Health Program was invaluable in helping me better understand how to translate that thought into action.”

Julia Song ’18
Medical Student, Harvard Medical School
“The Global Health Program provided me the opportunity to discover and pursue my passions, both academically and professionally. The program opened my eyes to the plethora of career paths available in the field.

The courses I took through the program were taught by my favorite professors at Princeton, and through their lectures and seminars I felt I was able to cultivate and combine my interests of health, public and international affairs, and human rights. For my summer internship before senior year, I worked at the Office of Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health, and ever since graduating I have continued to learn about public health, from a fellowship working on communications and advocacy for tuberculosis vaccines, to my current position working on health access and equity through primary care in the National Capital region.”
Majors of GHP Students

Since the Global Health Program began in 2008, the number of enrolled students has nearly quadrupled.

As of 2019, the Global Health Program has graduated over 400 students from more than 20 departments spanning the social and natural sciences, public policy, engineering, and the humanities.

The Global Health Program is one of the four largest, and most successful, certificate programs at Princeton.

**GHP student majors have included:**

- Molecular Biology
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- Public & International Affairs
- Anthropology
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Economics
- Engineering & Computer Science
- Neuroscience
- Politics
- Sociology
- History
- Language & Area Studies
- Other Majors
- Molecular Biology
- Molecular Biology
- Molecular Biology
History
Economics
Music
Near Eastern Studies
Architecture
Chemistry
Operations Research & Financial Engineering
Anthropology
Philosophy
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Comparative Literature
School of Public and International Affairs
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Molecular Biology
Slavic Languages & Literatures
Chemical & Biological Engineering
Computer Science
Psychology
Politics
French & Italian
“I have always pondered the question of whether there is something innate about being human that entails the protection of our health, even when we cannot contribute to society in traditional ways. This question is one I explored first through certain Global Health Program certificate courses, then in the field, and finally in my senior thesis. It is this interest that took me to Hyderabad, India, as a Global Health Scholar, to study how terminally ill cancer patients navigate limited access to end-of-life care.”

Nabil Shaikh ‘17 *21
Fellow, Princeton’s Scholars in the Nation’s Service

“The classes I took for the GHP certificate were some of my favorite courses at Princeton and have served me very well in my subsequent professional, academic and extracurricular pursuits.”

Aditi Vasan ‘10
Attending Physician, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

“In its core courses and rich variety of electives, the GHP curriculum emphasizes a unique form of interdisciplinary training that really challenges and engages the students. It is extremely rewarding as an instructor to work with such a diverse group and to see them hone their analytic skills as well as their capacity for dialogue between disciplines.”

Yi-Ching Ong
Director of Princeton Service Focus and former GHP Postdoctoral Research Associate
In their junior year, GHP students take a two-semester sequence that provides them with an interdisciplinary foundation in global health.

**GHP 350**

**Critical Perspectives in Global Health** *(Fall)*

Global health brings together a vast and diverse array of actors working to address urgent health issues worldwide with unprecedented financial and technological resources and informed by various agendas. In this course, students gain tools to critically analyze the social, political and economic processes related to this expanding field. As we scrutinize the value systems that underpin specific paradigms in global health, we place current interventions in historical perspective and gauge their benefits and unintended consequences. Through a people-centered, critically informed approach, students are encouraged to find new and collaborative ways to understand and act in and through the field of global health.

“GHP 350 encourages students to think critically about how global health knowledge is made and acted upon. We explore cases from around the world, including here in the U.S., and pay as much attention to the voices of the people most affected by disease and chronic suffering as those of experts and policy-makers. **Students leave the course with an expanded set of skills for interdisciplinary dialogue and ethical problem-solving that we hope will benefit whatever career path they take.**”

*Former GHP Postdoctoral Research Associate*
GHP 351

Epidemiology (Spring)

This course focuses on the distribution and determinants of disease. Through engagement with classic and contemporary epidemiological studies, students learn methodological approaches for measuring health status, disease occurrence and the association between risk factors and health outcomes. Through the critical examination of disease outbreaks, geographic clusters of cancer cases or long-term studies of noncommunicable diseases, the course assesses causal inference, study design and sampling, bias and confounding, the generalizability of research, and health policy and research ethics. Students gain skills to understand and critically evaluate health-related research and data, and are encouraged to bring these skills to bear on their own independent studies.

“The epidemiology course builds on the critical perspective course to prepare students for their independent research. GHP students work in diverse locales — I’ve had students who worked in Bangladesh and Madagascar, for example. They go into the field with the tools to hone their questions, and the knowledge to frame descriptive variables on population health in useful ways. This enables them to develop analysis to provide new windows into the drivers of burdens of health, or answer questions about health systems functioning.”

Jessica Metcalf

Associate Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs

Peru
Global Health Electives

Princeton faculty and visiting experts from a range of fields — from engineering and history of science to anthropology and molecular biology and ecology and evolutionary biology — teach a diverse set of elective courses that complement the core sequence. These courses expose students to the most recent research in global health in areas such as emerging infectious disease, drug development, health disparities and comparative health systems and reform.

Electives offered have included:

- Grassroots Power: Health and Social Change through Collective Action
- Reproductive Technologies and the Politics of Life
- Planetary Health
- You Are What You Eat: Bio-Cultural Explorations of Food and Health
- Medical Humanities
- Biotechnology
- Drug Discovery in the Genomics Era
- Economics of Health and Health Care
- Disease Ecology, Economics, and Policy
- Viruses: Strategy and Tactics
- Molecular Basis of Cancer
- Medical Spanish
- Biomedical Imaging
“The GHP electives were amongst my favorite courses taken at Princeton, in part due to the excellent and varied teaching faculty, and in part due to the fusion of several different yet highly related fields of study. Courses like Diseases in Children or Infections allowed me to apply basic and natural sciences in a broader, social context and gave equal value to both the micro and macro aspects of disease and global health. Above all, they provided me with a welcoming space to exercise my passion for both the medical sciences and public policy.”

Dahlia Kaki ’18
School of Public and International Affairs
Course Spotlight

**Diseases in Children: Causes, Costs, and Choices**

This course is designed to expose students to the link between health and disease and their underlying biological mechanisms. Taught by a physician-scientist who still practices pediatrics, there is an emphasis on the complex relationship between genetic and acquired causes of disease, medical practice, social environment, and cultural values. Several genetically-based disorders such as cystic fibrosis, trisomy 21, sickle cell disease, cancer, and autism are explored at the molecular, physiologic, and clinical level. Visits from children with these conditions provide students with the opportunity to learn how children and their families are affected, and how interactions with the health care system are both beneficial and singularly frustrating.

“Students find meeting with children and their parents an opportunity to build a cohesive link between what they have learned of biology and policy at Princeton and the real-world consequences of disease. Every student plays a role in class discussions, and I take great joy in how much the students contribute to my own life-long learning about biology, medicine, and children.”

Daniel A. Notterman, MD

Senior Research Scholar, Molecular Biology
Race, Drugs and Drug Policy in America

From “Chinese opium” to Oxycontin, and from cocaine and “crack” to BiDil, drug controversies reflect enduring debates about the role of medicine, the law, the policing of ethnic identity and racial difference. This course explores the history of controversial substances (prescription medicines, over-the-counter products, black market substances, psychoactive drugs), and how — from cigarettes to alcohol and opium — they become vehicles for heated debates over immigration, identity, cultural and biological difference, criminal character, the line between legality and illegality, and the boundaries of the normal and the pathological.

“Students are drawn to the course from multiple fields of study — the sciences, the humanities and the social sciences — to grapple simultaneously with current, still unfolding drug controversies, to enrich their understanding of the historical transformation of drug politics and policies, and to discuss the race and identity issues that often inform those policies.”

Keith Wailoo  
Henry Putnam University Professor of History and Public Affairs
Experiential Learning

One of the Global Health Program’s defining and most popular features is its focus on experiential learning. In the summer between their junior and senior years, students carry out internships and field research in the United States and abroad.

Our students gain real-world experience working with global health experts — in laboratories and with affected communities — and bring this to bear on their academic work.

GHP offers intensive guidance and mentoring at all stages, both at Princeton and in the field. The program’s postdoctoral research associates offer interdisciplinary methods training and workshops to help students succeed in their research endeavors, and have helped some students combine internships with ethnographic studies.

Topics of past internship and field research projects include:

- **Infant nutrition in rural West Africa**
- **New treatments for dengue virus in Southeast Asia**
- **Health care for the homeless in Boston**
- **Managing type 2 diabetes in urban China**
- **Effects of sewage systems on typhoid mortality in Nepal**
- **Promoting healthy eating for middle school students in Trenton**
- **Mental and physical health of migrant workers in Singapore**
- **Barriers to accessing emergency care in Philadelphia**
- **Environmental causes of childhood obesity in Memphis, Tennessee**
- **Maternal/child health outreach in urban South Africa**
- **Care for HIV patients in Guatemala**
- **Birth practices during the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States**
“Experiential learning is a hallmark of the Global Health Program. There’s no substitute for leaving the classroom to engage with local communities, researchers, nonprofits and patients in the U.S. and overseas, both in high- and low-resource environments. These experiences bring the academic study of global health to life, giving names and faces to complex issues. Experiential learning challenges assumptions and motivates GHP students to consider innovative solutions to health problems, solutions that are grounded both in theory and in realities on the ground.”

**Gilbert Collins, MPA ’99**

*Director of Global Health Programs, School of Public and International Affairs*
The GHP program exceeded all of my expectations and was the single most meaningful part of my Princeton experience. The courses, coupled with the fieldwork I had the opportunity to conduct in France and Vietnam, pushed me to think critically about the biological, historical, and sociological reasons why certain populations are particularly vulnerable to medical illness.

Daniel Sikavi ’16
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Global health students engage in internships and research in countries all around the world, gaining critical exposure to health policy and practice.

Argentina | Australia | Bangladesh | Benin | Bolivia | Brazil | Brunei | Cambodia | Canada | Chile | China | Colombia | Costa Rica | Ecuador | Ethiopia | Fiji | France | French Guiana | Germany | Ghana | Grenada | Guatemala | Honduras | India | Ireland | Israel | Italy | Jamaica | Kenya | Liberia | Madagascar | Malaysia | Mexico | Morocco | Mozambique | Nepal | Netherlands | Panama | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Russian Federation | Sierra Leone | Singapore | South Africa | South Korea | Spain | Sri Lanka | Sweden | Switzerland | Taiwan | Tanzania | Thailand | Tunisia | Turkey | Uganda | United Kingdom | United States | Vietnam
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology major Maria Malik ’19 conducted her summer research in Madagascar, surveying health centers and learning about the impact of cyclones on public health infrastructure and infectious diseases incidence. She also managed to spend some time with lemurs at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park.

School of Public and International Affairs major Andy Zheng ’20 interned at the Telethon Kids Institute in Perth, Australia. Through his research, he was able to understand the complexities of global health. Rather than focusing on one discipline, he integrated interests from history, sociology, ethics, and other fields to inform policy decisions at the local level. His independent research gave him an on-the-ground perspective of how different determinants influence health, allowing him to not just conceptualize global health, but witness it firsthand.
Economics major Crystal Wang ’18 conducted research at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam, based out of the hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City. Her research focused on dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue septic shock (DSS) in pediatric patients. She also assisted in data analytics for a study that compared fluid resuscitation regimens for children with DSS.

History major Mikaela Gerwin ’19 spent her summer conducting research for the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center, a non-profit organization that increases awareness about domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking. Her research focused on questions surrounding the legacies of colonialism, racism and American presence in Alaska, and how they impact physical and mental health in Alaskan Native communities. She also identified how these legacies play a role in perpetuating poverty and substance abuse. Mikaela’s summer research experience has prompted her to focus on the history of domestic violence in Alaskan Native communities for her senior thesis.
Key Facts

GHP awards funding each year to an average of 85 undergraduates for research projects and service internships around the world, including the United States.

Students pursuing degrees in the basic and applied sciences may carry out their GHP summer research in a lab in Princeton or elsewhere.

Nearly 75 percent of GHP students engage in field research in sites around the world and across the United States.

GHP students have been the recipients of numerous prestigious honors and awards, including the Rhodes Scholarship, the John C. Bogle Fellowship for Civic Service, the Henry Richardson Labouisse '26 Prize, the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, the Davis Projects for Peace Award, the Martin Dale Fellowship, the Reach Out 56-81 Fellowship, the fellowship for Scholars in the Nation's Service and Fulbright U.S. Student Program Fellowships.

Sierra Leone
I believe that everyone has the right to health, and that the government is supposed to provide and protect that right...Healthcare inequality is just as jarring in the United States and other parts of the world. **We need to understand this global problem so we can do something about it.**
The Senior Thesis

Every student pursuing the Certificate in Global Health and Health Policy writes a health-related senior thesis in their home department. Many of these students have won awards for their outstanding thesis work, including:

- Isabelle Chandler (History '21): “The Spirit of Xiaotangshan”: An Investigation into the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army’s Use of the Xiaotangshan SARS Hospital as a Tool of Propaganda, 2003 - 2021”

- Chitra Parikh (Architecture '21): “Reclaiming the Corridor: Modulating Circulation and Air Transmission to Build Flexibility in Clinical Design”

- Jonathan Wang (Molecular Biology '21): “Examining Low-Barrier Buprenorphine Treatment during COVID-19 for Individuals Experiencing Housing Insecurity and Homelessness”

- Rachel Kasdin (Sociology '20): “The Crisis of Stigma: Young Adults’ Negotiation of Racism and Homelessness in Trenton’s Health Care System”

- Elisabeth Slighton (Anthropology '20): “Organic Local Theorists: A Patient and Provider Ethnography of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases”

- Alexandra Wilson (Molecular Biology '20): “Establishing a Computational Model of the CO2-Concentrating Mechanism in Chlamydomonas Reinhardtii”

- Samantha Chai (Public and International Affairs '19): “Hit Me With Your Best Shot: An Analysis of Maternal and Household Demographics on Child Immunization Status in India”

- Carson Clay (Public and International Affairs '19): “We’re Closed, Call 911: Community Effects and Perceptions of Rural Hospital Closures”

Global Health Colloquium

The Global Health Program brings global thought leaders, innovative researchers and policymakers to campus to share their expertise and enter into dialogue with students, faculty and the broader Princeton community on timely health topics. These monthly colloquia foster a unique sense of intellectual community within the program.

“Through the Global Health Colloquium series, I spoke with and learned from truly inspiring visiting scholars and change-makers. The lecturers’ thought-provoking presentations often perfectly lined up with my GHP coursework, which gave me the opportunity to deepen my understanding of, and discover the human narratives behind, complex concepts. The Global Health Colloquium series was a wonderful way to learn from people in the field, speak directly to authors of books read in class, and engage further with people in the global health community.”

Jacqueline Dragon ’19
Chemistry
“The Global Health and Health Policy Certificate puts global health under an interdisciplinary lens. Even a quick look at our colloquium topics and speakers vividly illustrates our disciplinary breadth. Bringing together students and faculty across departments, the program blends coursework and hands-on experience to bring concepts to life and foster commitment to global health. Enrollment in the program has grown exponentially over the years and it continues to be one of the most popular undergraduate certificate programs on campus.”

Andrea Graham

Associate Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
International Connections

GHP has expanded its reach beyond Princeton’s campus, establishing partnerships with organizations located in the United States and around the globe. Through these partnerships, GHP students learn to serve those in need and gain hands-on experience with some of the world’s leading global health practitioners. To ensure that these programs are mutually beneficial, we also bring global health practitioners and scholars from our partner organizations to campus, where they conduct research and teach special courses. These are a few of GHP’s ongoing partnerships.
The Global Health Program began its partnership with Zhejiang University in 2016. GHP students conduct summer research in mental health, health economics and policy, family medicine and community health services. Many students also focus their internships on pressing public health issues including the prevention and treatment of obesity, metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular disease and stomach cancer, the second leading cause of cancer-related death in China.

Student research topics in China have included:

- Immunotherapy treatment for gastric cancer patients
- Cost burden of multi-drug resistance in Chinese hospitals
- Sleep quality’s relationship with obesity, sarcopenia and sarcopenia obesity
- Relationship between nicotine dependence and fat distribution
- The role of ERK$_3$ in the metastasis and growth of gastric cancer cells in vitro
Several GHP-supported students have conducted summer research at Mpala Research Center. The Mpala Research Center is a thriving international research facility, encompassing 48,000 acres of land in northern Kenya. The area is home to diverse animal and plant species, including African elephants and Grevy’s zebras. Its mission centers on science, education, and conservation.

Student research topics at Mpala have included:

- **Understanding and predicting the effects of watering holes on disease prevalence and transmission**
- **Mpala Rift Valley Fever**
- **Evaluating the biodiversity of the local Anopheles mosquito population at through larval sampling**
- **Laikipia rabies vaccination campaign**
- **The trajectory of non-communicable diseases in rural and urban Kenya**
In 2010, the Global Health Program began its partnership with the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), a large-scale clinical and public health research unit based in Vietnam. Princeton’s collaboration with OUCRU includes undergraduate internships and theses; joint research projects among graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty; expert conferences; special lectures on global health and infectious disease; and exchanges of faculty and researchers.

Student research topics in Vietnam have included:

- **Pediatric tuberculosis**
- **Typhoid mapping**
- **Antibiotic use and antibiotic knowledge of aquaculture farmers**
- **Biological control of mosquito dengue vectors**
The Global Health Program has been working with the Telethon Kids Institute in the western Australian city of Perth since 2016. GHP interns assist with pragmatic intervention/clinical trials aimed at preventing and treating infectious diseases in children, and contribute to a range of research activities including study design and development, participant recruitment, data collection, management and interpretation of underlying immunological and microbiological mechanisms.

Student research topics in Australia have included:

- **Understanding and eliminating barriers to vaccine uptake**
- **Clinical trials of empiric treatment strategies of gastroenteritis in Aboriginal children in remote settings**
- **Therapeutic trials for bronchiolitis in infants**
- **Understanding and improving rotavirus vaccine efficacy in Aboriginal children**
United States

The Global Health Program has relationships with a wide range of partners in the United States. Students have engaged in health policy analysis and advocacy with nonprofits, strategic planning and evaluation with government agencies, clinical work with research hospitals, and much more throughout the country.

Student research topics in the U.S. have included:

- Evaluation of Peace Corps health interventions in Washington, D.C.
- Pediatric obesity research in Tennessee
- Oncology and health equity at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
- Covid-19 response activities in New York
After Princeton

GHP graduates are thoughtful and prepared leaders in the fields of medicine, economics, engineering, politics, applied science, academia and industry.

90% of graduating seniors pursue further education or work in health-related fields following graduation.

40% of alumni are in M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. programs.

10% are in Ph.D., M.P.H. and M.P.P. programs.

Other alumni are working in public health and health policy programs in the United States and around the world, through fellowships for domestic and international service and research, or by founding, running and working for community-based organizations.

In a recent survey, more than 90% of graduating seniors reported that their summer research or internship experiences influenced their plans for future work and higher education.

“The Global Health Program provided me with a broad knowledge of issues and methods that allowed me to hit the ground running once I began working for an international human rights organization. I realize now as a graduate student that GHP instilled in us an analytical maturity in critically assessing health policy that might have taken years to otherwise develop. In every stage of work and training I have relied on my education in GHP as a tool to overcome challenges, a platform to broaden my skills and a resource to contribute to projects and endeavors.”

Alex Gertner ’10
M.D./Ph.D. student at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
GHP Alumni

“Of all my academic experiences at Princeton, the GHP program has by far influenced my life the most, even as an alumna. The program exposed me to opportunities in health care beyond practicing medicine, taught me to think critically about complex health care issues in both domestic and global settings, and gave me a supportive community of friends and mentors.

After graduating from Princeton, my experience in the GHP program led me to complete a graduate degree in health policy, work in federal consulting, and pursue health care innovation at a fertility benefits company working at the intersection of women’s health, insurance, and analytics.”

Melody Qin ’16
Vice President, Business Development & Analytics, Progyny
Ameer Elbuluk ’13 (left) credits the Global Health Program with solidifying his interest in pursuing a career in medicine. While at Princeton, and with the assistance of GHP leadership, he established the Princeton chapter of the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC). He traveled to Costa Rica with the organization and helped the chapter establish a robust identity on campus. Ameer’s unwavering passion for global health led him to a career in medicine. He currently works at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York as an orthopedic surgeon.
From 2012-15, Raphael Frankfurter (center) was executive director of Wellbody Alliance, a healthcare provider in Sierra Leone. His connection to Wellbody began with an internship through the Global Health Program after his freshman year and continued throughout his time at Princeton. Frankfurter helped to lead the campaign against the spread of Ebola in Sierra Leone, in partnership with local and national governments and international organizations such as Partners in Health. After graduating from Princeton, he went on to further study in medicine and anthropology.
“I came away from Princeton and the Global Health Program with a commitment to coupling service with deep, critical exploration, research and reflection.

This commitment has kept me grounded in my health-care work in Sierra Leone and sensitive to a complicated historical and sociocultural context, particularly during the Ebola crisis. The experiences I had as part of Princeton’s Global Health Program have helped me to consider how we can engage with the complexities of the communities we serve while seeking to rectify broad global inequities.”

Raphael Frankfurter ’13
“Working with the Global Health Program was a life- and career-transforming experience for me.

My own understanding of the concrete, urgent stakes of global health inequalities expanded enormously as I guided students in their first visceral, disorienting encounters with the harsh realities of health and care in poor communities in Sierra Leone. I think that the greatest testament to the success of the program’s critical, interdisciplinary approach to global health is surely its students and its graduates, who in their studies and field projects have engaged insightfully, constructively and sensitively with struggles for health equity the world over.”

Peter Locke
Assistant Professor of Instruction in Global Health Studies and Anthropology at Northwestern University and former GHP postdoctoral research associate
Faculty and Researchers

GHP includes faculty and researchers from a wide range of disciplines in the natural and social sciences, public policy, engineering and the humanities.

GHP is supported by a multidisciplinary 14-member executive committee and has more than 40 faculty affiliates within 18 departments and programs. The program also recruits postdoctoral scholars from a wide range of disciplines to support students through teaching, advising and mentorship.

In addition to teaching the core and elective courses, mentoring students as they develop research programs, and supervising senior theses, faculty and postdoctoral scholars are global thought leaders, engaged in innovative research on topics ranging from vaccination to the history of psychiatry to universal health coverage and the place of health in sustainable development initiatives.
“I was looking to work in an interdisciplinary space, and Princeton has incredible resources, from the History of Science program, to the Department of Anthropology, to the High Meadows Environmental Institute. The Global Health Program allows me to engage with these different fields and gain new perspectives as I further my research and teach, equipping students with the information and skills they need to ensure their work has impact.”

Heidi Morefield
Former GHP postdoctoral research associate

“The diversity of the GHP Program Faculty is astounding, from anthropologists to U.S. health policy experts. Their verve for teaching solidified my own interests in healthcare and indelibly shaped my path beyond graduation.”

Zach Levine ’17
Consultant, Avalere Health

“GHP courses are some of the best at Princeton because of the incredible faculty and fellows. The lessons I learned from their teaching and mentorship continue to inspire me to approach policy challenges with an ‘historically deep and geographically broad’ mindset.”

Kishan Bhatt ’17*21
Fellow, Princeton’s Scholars in the Nation’s Service

“GHP’s faculty are the department’s greatest asset. The professors are always willing to help, no matter how busy their schedules are. They do everything in their power to ensure that GHP students have the most enriching experience possible.”

Ellie DeGarmo ’17
Project 55 Fellow, New York Academy of Medicine
Co-Directors

Heather Howard
Professor of the Practice, School of Public and International Affairs

Jessica Metcalf
Associate Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Public Affairs

Executive Committee

Ruha Benjamin
African American Studies

Amy Borovoy
East Asian Studies

Janet Currie
Economics and School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)

Noreen Goldman
Demography and SPIA

Andrea Graham
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Bryan Grenfell
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and SPIA

Katja Guenther
History

Kate Ho
Economics

Heather Howard
SPIA

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