

Children's National Medical Center  
Guidelines for Residents Participating in International Electives

The AAP Guidelines for international electives on 4 basic principles for meaningful international exchange: **Prerequisites, Preceptorship, Preparation, and Evaluation.**

Planning your elective

1. Complete the first **12 months** of your pediatric training.
2. Participate in the CNMC Global Health didactic curriculum to gain more exposure to global health issues.
3. Identify a **site** for your elective from CNMC recognized sites or through independent research (*see Guidelines for Choosing Site*).
4. Have elective approved by residency director 3 months prior to departure.
5. Identify a **faculty mentor** at CNMC.
6. **Orient yourself** to the host country's culture, politics, health and safety issues. Resources include resident guide-book (printed/web-based, TBA), faculty mentors, and independent research.
7. Develop a list of **written objectives** (*see Suggestions for Developing Objectives*) and review with faculty mentor 1-2 months prior to departure.
8. Identify a **preceptor** in the host country.
9. Be aware of the language requirements in the location you are going to and any preparation that is needed.

Prior to departure – Personal preparation (*See Health and Safety Measures*)

10. Secure travel documents such as passports and visas before departure.
11. Arrange housing and transportation for yourself.
12. Arrange for necessary vaccines/malaria prophylaxis/etc. prior to departure.
13. Purchase medical/evacuation insurance.

During the elective

14. The elective time should be **at least 4 weeks**
15. The experience should be hands-on and clinical, which could include hospital-based, community-based or public health
16. Obtain **formal evaluation** from your host preceptor
17. **Self-evaluation** to determine if objectives were met.

Upon Return

18. Submit a written **summary of your experiences** to the program director
19. **Formally evaluate** your elective with faculty mentor
20. Prepare a 20-30 minute presentation on your experience