



College of Public Health

Suzanne and Ward Chambers

Student Summer Global Health Fellowship

2025 Call for Applications



October 2024



## The College of Public Health

### Suzanne and Ward Chambers Summer Global Health Fellowship

#### 2025 Announcement

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Public Health (COPH) announces a call for applications (CFA) to the 2025 Suzanne and Ward Chambers Summer Global Health Fellowship.

#### History

The UNMC College of Public Health Suzanne and Ward Chambers Summer Global Health Fellowship Award was established in 2014 with generous support from the UNMC COPH faculty member and physician Dr. Ward Chambers, a long-serving Director for Global Health at UNMC, and his wife, Suzanne Chambers. This funded fellowship is dedicated to continuing his passion for introducing students to the pursuit of global health with projects aimed at supporting advances and innovations in global public health. As the biggest student award in the COPH, *all students* are encouraged to apply for this Award.

The core concepts of the Suzanne and Ward Chambers Fellowship award are to expose COPH students to new cultures and health systems, build international understanding, and strengthen the relationships and collaborations between students and professionals in the US and other countries. Twenty-one (21) students were awarded the fellowship over the past seven (7) award cycles with projects conducted in eleven (17) countries: Italy, Uganda, Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Oman, Syria, Tanzania, and Taiwan.



Suzanne and Ward Chambers Summer Global Health Fellowship Alumni

2024



Bibiana Suarez  
PhD Student, Health Promotion  
Italy



Uzo Chukwuma  
DrPH Student, Health Promotion  
Uganda

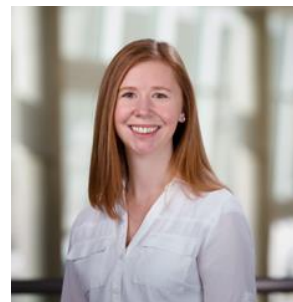


Josiane Kabayundo  
PhD Student, Epidemiology  
Rwanda

2023



Natalia Santos, USA  
PhD Student, Health Promotion  
Brazil



Kathleen Angell, USA  
PhD Student, Epidemiology  
Kyrgyzstan



Taylor Clarkson, USA  
MPH Student, Epidemiology  
Ghana



Mamello Makhele, Lesotho  
PhD Student, Health Services Research,  
Administration & Policy  
Fulbright Student  
Bangladesh (pending)

2022



Julie Lubisi, USA  
PhD student, Health Promotion & Disease  
Prevention Research  
Bangladesh



Vickie Doss, USA  
MPH student, Epidemiology  
Bangladesh



Nancy Tahmo, Cameroon  
MPH student, Epidemiology  
Fulbright student  
Cameroon



2019



Anlan Cheney, USA  
MPH student, Epidemiology  
India



Sabrina Chengane, Algeria  
MPH student, Maternal and Child Health  
Fulbright student  
Ethiopia

2018



Rima AlBalushi, Oman  
MPH student, Epidemiology  
Oman



Christopher Tougeron, USA  
MPH student, Environmental and  
Occupational Health  
China



Zijian Qin, China  
PhD student, Environmental Health, Occupational Health, and Toxicology  
China



2017



Nada AlNaji, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
PhD Student, Epidemiology  
Syria



Moses New-Aaron, Nigeria  
MPH Student, Biostatistics  
Tanzania



Sachi Verma, India  
PhD student, Health Services Research,  
Administration & Policy  
Tanzania



Xiaoting Sun, China  
PhD student, Health Services Research,  
Administration & Policy  
Taiwan

2016



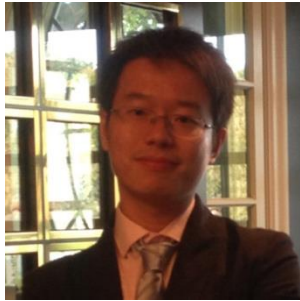
Trang Hoang, USA  
MPH student, Environmental and  
Occupational Health  
Indonesia



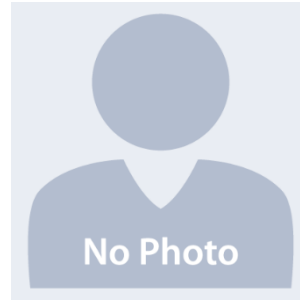
Kushal Karan, USA  
MPH Student, Public Health Administration  
& Policy  
Indonesia



2015



Yang Wang, China  
PhD student, Health Services Research,  
Administration & Policy  
Taiwan



Jonathan Ali, USA  
PhD student, Environmental Health,  
Occupational Health, and Toxicology  
Chile



Bijaya Padhi, India  
MPH Student, Health Promotion  
India



### Award Details

- A total of \$4,000 is given to each awardee to cover the personal travel, health insurance, and in-country project-related expenses. An additional \$500 is given to the awardee after presenting the work in October/November 2024 grand rounds/Innovation Expo. Another \$500 is awarded after publishing the fellowship project manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal.

The Award does not cover personal expenses, including:

- Renewal of personal passport
  - Software licenses
  - Airfare change fees
- This is a summer fellowship; students should conduct their overseas activities over the summer semester, from May through early August. The total time allotted during the summer semester depends on the type and scope of the activities but students are expected to spend about four (4) weeks in the host country. Students can work on their projects at their own discretion; however, the fellowship is expected to include at least 6 to 8 weeks dedicated to preparation for the research project, post-data collection analysis, and report and manuscript preparation.
  - Flexibility in this schedule may be permitted to students on a case-by-case basis where global travel may be challenging to schedule during summer or due to other academic commitments. The faculty mentor, Dr. ElRayes, and the Award committee will evaluate circumstances for each case separately. However, the Award is valid only for one academic year.
  - In case a student cannot conduct the project in the country of choice and needs to do it in another country, the evaluation committee must approve this change after the student provides the needed documents, including justification and updated plan.
  - Current Fulbright students at UNMC must get approval from their Fulbright officer to travel abroad for this fellowship.
  - A written report provided to the Chambers Fellowship supervisory committee and an oral presentation at the grand rounds/Innovation Expo in October/November 2024 are mandatory requirements of the fellowship.
  - A detailed report must be provided to the hosting organization no later than six months after the completion of the fellowship with the host organization.





### Number of Awards

For the 2025 award, up to five (5) prizes are available. All monies will be advanced through Ms. Pam Ehmke, Assistant Dean for Finance, Office of the Dean, College of Public Health, email: [pehmke@unmc.edu](mailto:pehmke@unmc.edu), phone: 402.559.1982.

### Country Options

Students can choose from 3 options:

#### **Option 1:**

Do your project with the Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh. Students can find more about the Hope organization on their website <https://www.hopefoundationbd.org/>.

The UNMC has a signed International Affiliation Agreement for Education with Hope. According to this agreement, the Hope Foundation will:

- a. Offer public health opportunities to students related to local communities as well as the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- b. Provide essential administrative guidance and support, such as an invitation letter, visa application, and other pre-trip arrangements.
- c. Arrange the round-trip to and from (the city of) Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and local accommodation (however, the costs are to be covered by the fellowship award).
- d. Organize the local academic, research, and cultural activities and provide supervision and guidance during the duration of the relevant activities in Bangladesh.
- e. Hope will provide English translators as needed.

If you choose to do projects with Hope Foundation, Dr. ElRayes will facilitate communication with the Hope Foundation teams.

#### **Option 2:**

Do your work with the Refugees, Displaced Persons, & Forced Migration Studies Center at Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan. Students can find more about the Center on its website <https://rdfmsc.yu.edu.jo/index.php/en/>.

The UNMC has a signed International Affiliation Agreement for Education with Yarmouk University. According to this agreement, the Center will:



- a. Offer public health opportunities to students related to refugees in Jordan.
- b. Provide essential administrative guidance and support, such as an invitation letter, visa application, and other pre-trip arrangements.
- d. Organize the local academic, research, and cultural activities and provide supervision and guidance during the duration of the relevant activities in Jordan.
- e. The Center will provide English translators as needed.

If you choose to do projects with the Refugees, Displaced Persons, & Forced Migration Studies Center, Dr. ElRayes will facilitate communication with the Center director.

**Note:** an academic International Affiliation Agreement is in progress and should be executed with Yarmouk University.

### **Option 3:**

Joint Research Project with the University of Rwanda. Students can know more about the RW on its website: <https://www.mineduc.gov.rw/university-of-rwanda>

The UNMC has a signed Affiliation Agreement with the University of Rwanda School of Public Health and there are a variety of activities between the two universities. The scope of this fellowship cycle with RW focuses on adolescent pregnancy and its impact on family functioning, social support, nutrition, mental health, and caregiving practices.

Goal: to produce reliable preliminary data on adolescent parents' family dynamics and caregiving, to inform a larger future study. During the Summer of 2025, student(s) will design and implement the quantitative protocols, possible data collection in collaboration with the University of Rwanda team. This is ideal for all students looking for hands-on experience in research design, cross-cultural collaboration, and global health topics.

### **Option 4:**

Do work with international organizations (other than Hope Foundation and Refugees, Displaced Persons, & Forced Migration Studies Center) under the following requirements:

- a. The international organization is well reputed with proven experience in its work area and has existing infrastructure and capacity to assist the student in executing the needed work.



- b. The organization of choice has current or previous work with the student's COPH/UNMC mentor(s).
- c. The organization is approved by the student's COPH/UNMC project mentor(s).
- d. The organization is approved by UNMC's Office of Global Engagement and Export Control.

**Note:** work with organizations that do not already have an Affiliation Agreement with UNMC may not count the project/experience for your APEX.



### Applications

Each application should include all the following information:

1. Title of Project.
2. Student name, the program of study, concentration, years of study, email, and phone number.
3. UNMC/COPH mentor(s), college(s), department(s)/division(s), email(s), and phone number(s).
4. Overseas mentor(s), affiliated organization(s), email(s), phone number(s), and address(es) (if doing work with an organization other than Hope).
5. Emergency contact information (name, address, email, phone number, relation to student).
6. Abstract of the proposed project (maximum of 400 words). Students are encouraged to include innovation in their work (include ways this project/research may be novel, generating new opportunities for population health discovery and advancement of global health).
7. Specific aims of the project (maximum 1 page).
8. Significance/impact of the project (maximum 1 page).
9. Methodology and approach (maximum 3 pages).

**Points 6-9 above should not exceed 5 pages. For guidelines on completing these fields, please refer to the General Instructions of NIH and other PHS Agencies.**

10. Literature reference list.
11. A CV for the applicant student.
12. NIH bio-sketch(es) of UNMC faculty mentor(s), please refer to the following website:  
[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R\\_biosketchsample\\_VerC.docx](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R_biosketchsample_VerC.docx).
13. NIH bio-sketch of the overseas mentor(s), if applicable, please refer to the following website:  
[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R\\_biosketchsample\\_VerC.docx](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/SF424R-R_biosketchsample_VerC.docx) . If the overseas mentor(s) does not have a bio-sketch, please provide his/her resume(s).
14. Letters of support (LOS):
  - a. One from each UNMC/COPH faculty project mentor.
  - b. One from each overseas project mentor. The LOS should include a description of the existing physical and logistical infrastructure in that entity that are critical to the student's project (data, tools, personnel, guidelines) and a local guide for the proposed research



project. It should also include names of local collaborators (institutions, organizations, government entities, and personnel, if possible) if doing the project with an organization other than Hope.

Letters should include an assurance that the UNMC/COPH and overseas mentors are willing to collaborate on the project.

15. A timeline for the different activities related to the project/experience up to the oral presentation at the COPH.
16. Itemized budget estimates for air travel and in-country field expenses directly related to research and engagement (*a budget template form will be provided to those selected for the Award*).
17. Students who are awarded the fellowship must submit a detailed itinerary of their travels for the Award before their US departure, and their faculty mentor and Dr. ElRayes must approve this itinerary.

**All applications should use Arial 11 font, single-spaced, with 0.5-inch margins on all sides in one single pdf document.**

### Timeline

The first half of October 2024	Announcement of Chambers Global Health Fellowship competition. Application open for all eligible students.
December 31, 2024	The last day to submit the completed application. Completed applications must be emailed to Dr. Wael ElRayes at <a href="mailto:wael.elrayes@unmc.edu">wael.elrayes@unmc.edu</a>
Last week of January 2025	Awardees of the fellowship announced.
April 2025	For Master of Public Health students, completion of prerequisites for CPH 528 APEx or CPH 529 Capstone, if applicable.
May 2025	Deadline for IRB approval, if applicable.
May - early August 2025	Travel and conduct overseas project activities.
August-October 2025	Completion of project and submission of a written report to Dr. ElRayes
October/November 2025	Awardees present their work to the COPH



### General Notes

- PhD & MS students interested in aligning this opportunity with course credit should contact their faculty mentor or Graduate Program Director.
- Master of Public Health students interested in aligning the requirements of this Fellowship opportunity with the CPH 528-APEX academic requirements, please contact Laura Vinson, Director of Masters Program, by email: [laura.vinson@unmc.edu](mailto:laura.vinson@unmc.edu), phone: 402-559-4191.
- DrPH students wanting to align the requirements of this opportunity with their CPH 798 practicum experience should contact Nicole Kolm-Valdivia at [nicole.kolmvaldivia@unmc.edu](mailto:nicole.kolmvaldivia@unmc.edu)
- MHA students interested in aligning this Fellowship opportunity with their internship or capstone should contact Dr. Wael ElRayes at [wael.elrayes@unmc.edu](mailto:wael.elrayes@unmc.edu)

### Applied Practice Experience (APEX) and Capstone Experience

Students interested in using the fellowship to meet academic requirements will need to meet all provisions of the respective course. Students interested in using the fellowship for APEX will need to seek approval from the COPH Office of Public Health Practice. Students interested in using the fellowship for the Capstone Experience will need to seek permission from their faculty mentor/faculty advisor and/or committee chair. For either situation, students are strongly encouraged to begin planning early and to meet with the respective academic program support staff/faculty to discuss special considerations for combining the academic requirements of APEX or Capstone Experience with this fellowship.

Ms. Laura Vinson, MPH, Service-Learning Programs Manager, can be reached to help with questions about combining academic requirements for the Applied Practice Experience (APEX). Contact your faculty mentor/faculty advisor, capstone committee chair, and your program's Director of Professional Programs for information on using this opportunity for your Capstone Experience.



### Evaluation and Selection

- A COPH award committee with faculty representatives from all five COPH departments will independently evaluate all student applications and select the winning projects.
- A personal interview will be conducted with selected students before the final decision.

### Qualified Countries and Important Notes

Projects can be conducted in any country except the USA, regions, and territories that does not have US Department of State travel restrictions. Please use this link to check the status of countries of interest: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/> and <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

If you choose to work with the HOPE Foundation, the foundation will work with local authorities in Bangladesh to facilitate receiving the entry visa. This process could take up to 3 months. Applicants should also be completely aware of the vaccination requirements and application timelines. Awardees should also work with the UNMC Office of Global Engagement (OGE) and UNMC export control on their travel arrangements (<https://unmc.edu/academicaffairs/compliance/areas/export.html>), (<https://www.unmc.edu/global/>). Awardees are required to make their travel arrangements and book through Concur. This will allow UNMC to make sure students are not traveling to places with state department warnings and notify UNMC if there is an incident while students are traveling or in-country.

Although the COPH has a signed MOU with the HOPE Foundation to provide transport, accommodation, and other logistical support, ***awardees are responsible for their own safety in the foreign country.*** They should check the security and safety guidelines and instructions before conducting their work in a foreign country. All students must purchase United Health Care Global Insurance from Sara Pirtle, email: [sepirtle@unmc.edu](mailto:sepirtle@unmc.edu), phone: 402-559-2924.

International Student awardees should consult with UNMC International Student Advisor: Dan Teet: email: [dteet@unmc.edu](mailto:dteet@unmc.edu), phone: 402-559-8326, before their planned applications.

Specific questions about the fellowship can be emailed to the faculty advisor, Dr. ElRayes, at [wael.elrayes@unmc.edu](mailto:wael.elrayes@unmc.edu).



Important Notes

- *Students will be allowed to travel contingent on the international and UNMC's travel regulations at the time of travel.*
- *If the student is on any or needs any medications taken with him/her from the US, they must have a prescription or a letter from their physician and have enough medicines for the duration of the trip.*