

## Master's in Development Practice

# International Summer Practicum Program: The Basics



## About Emory MDP

Emory MDP is an innovative STEM degree program that prepares students for careers as development and humanitarian professionals through rigorous coursework across disciplines, training in mixed-method research, and practical learning experiences.

## Our Practicum Model

Students are required to engage in field practicums over the two summers that they are enrolled in the program. Our “embedded practitioner” model envisions students serving within partner organizations as if they were regular team members: they are not guests on a “study trip” and not expected to collect data for a thesis.

## How It Works

### SCOPE OF WORK

We envision students engaging in educationally meaningful assignments that build their skills as professionals-in-training. This could include program design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, community/stakeholder engagement, capacity building, knowledge management, outreach and communication, and more.

To ensure alignment of expectations, we encourage the development of a Scope of Work. This may start with a broad idea and get refined during exchanges between host organizations, Emory MDP staff, and students. **See examples of recent practicums on [our website](#).**

### TIME FRAME

Practicums span 8-10 weeks, typically from mid-May to late July or early August, with some flexibility on either end to accommodate the host organization’s interests and constraints.

## Our Goal

We strive for a **win-win arrangement** which has students practicing skills acquired in the classroom and building experiences and networks, while delivering high quality work that serves their host organization’s needs and goals.

## Host Organizations Can Include

International NGOs  
Community-Based Orgs  
Government Agencies  
Private Sector Companies  
Research Centers  
Educational Institutions  
Social Movements

## Practicum Placement Timeline

NOV – JAN

DEC – JAN

FEB

MAR – MAY

Outreach to hosts;  
matching students  
and hosts

Facilitate student-host  
meeting; develop  
Scope of Work

Finalize placements;  
refine Scope of Work;  
student preparation

Travel practicalities;  
funding  
disbursement





## LOCATION

Emory MDP international summer practicums are typically conducted in person in Low and Middle Income Countries (remote practicums are also possible). Students may travel to more than one country for their practicums; however, the host organization is expected to cover the additional costs.

## FINANCIALS & LOGISTICS

Emory MDP provides students with basic financial support for approved summer practicums. Support for in-person practicums includes airfare to practicum destination and a modest per-diem to defray lodging and food expenses during the practicum period. Program staff assists with logistics, visas, and other issues related to student practicum placements.

Host organizations may cover in-country practicum essentials, such as office space, work supplies, in-country transport, research assistants or translators, and other project-related necessities. MDP is grateful for any support, such as housing, meals, transport, or stipends that host organizations can provide.

## SECURITY

Emory gives the highest priority to students' safety and security while they engage in university-sponsored travel by providing pre-departure briefings, travel emergency assistance, and other supports. International SOS provides security updates and evacuation insurance.

## HEALTHCARE

Emory University Student Health Insurance Plan (EUSHIP) offers some coverage for travel-related vaccinations and healthcare costs outside of the US. Students are allowed to choose a different health insurance plan: if they do, they are responsible for any healthcare cost that are not covered by their plans.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

We expect students to perform by the highest standards of professionalism and to be regularly supervised and accountable to their host organizations as if they were regular employees, through regular meetings, check-ins, and ongoing feedback on students' work.

Supervisors are required to submit an online evaluation form (taking about 8-10 minutes). During their summer practicums, students are enrolled for nine academic credits, for which they receive a pass/fail grade based on the supervisors' evaluation.

## Recent Practicum Partners Include:



## Contact Emory MDP

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