



Curtin University

HEALTH SCIENCES GLOBAL EXPERIENCES PROGRAM

2027 PROGRAM GUIDE

Make tomorrow better.

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Introduction to Health Science Global Experiences

Health Sciences Global Experiences Program provides health sciences students with the opportunity to undertake an international fieldwork placement at partner sites in Asia. This award-winning international student mobility placement enables students to work collaboratively with their peers from other health sciences disciplines, learn about the complexity of different healthcare systems, appraise their own cultural awareness and competence and practise leadership and discipline-specific skills.



Students exchange knowledge and work alongside local health professionals delivering services relevant to their degrees such as Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, and Occupational Therapy, Exercise Science, Social Work, Nursing, Occupational Health & Safety, Psychology, Oral Health, Dietetics, Nutrition, Sexology, Exercise Physiotherapy, Paramedicine, Midwifery, Medicine, Medical Imaging and Health Promotion. Curtin students work under the direction of the host site partner and liaison staff with long-arm supervision continuing from Perth.



Curtin University Strategic Plan- Delivering Excellence

Curtin University is a vibrant, globally engaged institution known for its innovation and strong industry connections. Our graduates are highly sought after, and our alumni network includes leaders across a broad range of professions worldwide. A clear and comprehensive global strategy—strengthened by deep international partnerships and alliances—drives our commitment to being a truly global university, in line with our vision, mission, and values. HS Global aligns closely with this commitment and strongly embodies Curtin's strategic direction.

Curtin Vision:

To be a recognised global leader in research, education and engagement. Curtin will be a beacon for positive change, embracing the challenges and opportunities of our times to advance understanding and change lives for the better.

Curtin Mission:

To transform lives and communities through education and research.

Curtin Values:

Building on a foundation of integrity and respect, and through courage, we will achieve excellence and have an impact on the communities we serve.

Inter-professional Education

Interprofessional Education is a cornerstone of Curtin's Faculty of Health Sciences. It recognises that no single profession can address the full scope of today's complex health and social challenges.

IPE brings together students from multiple disciplines to learn *with, from, and about* each other. Understanding how each profession contributes to client care enables future practitioners to collaborate more effectively, ultimately improving safety, quality, and outcomes for patients, families, and communities.



Inter-professional Capability Framework

All activities within Curtin's Interprofessional Practice Program are guided by the **Interprofessional Capability Framework**, developed by the Faculty of Health Sciences. This framework outlines the essential capabilities needed to become a collaborative, practice-ready professional. It provides a structure for teaching and assessing the skills required to work effectively in interprofessional teams and to deliver safe, high-quality, client-centred care.



Program and Host Sites

Health Sciences Global Experiences team collaborates with education providers, community organisations, health care facilities, hospital and international NGOs to provide placements that focus on delivering learning outcomes for students whilst making a positive social impact with the communities we work with.

In 2027 HS Global will be running 4-week community healthcare placements in **Cambodia, China and Nepal** in June – July and November – December 2027 periods. In our program students will have the opportunity to complete units embedded within their degree for credit. The following sections in this information booklet will provide an overview of each destination and an insight into the host sites we are currently working with for the 3 countries.

**** Please note host sites, placement information and travel dates are always subject to change and are dependent on local conditions and group numbers and are sometimes out of our control.***



Cambodia



Cambodia, or the **Kingdom of Cambodia** as it is officially known in English, is in Southeast Asia and bordered by Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and the Gulf of Thailand. The official religion is Theravada Buddhism, practised by approximately 95 percent of the population. Cambodia's minority groups include Vietnamese, Chinese, Chams and 30 hill tribes. The capital and largest city is Phnom Penh, the political, economic and cultural centre of Cambodia.

Cambodia experienced a particularly turbulent political period in the 70's where from 1970 to 1975, under the direction of Pol Pot the Khmer Rouge was directly and indirectly involved in the death of more than 2 million people. In 1975 the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia and remained there until 1979. As a result of the civil war and then occupation by Vietnam, many educated people were killed, especially health professionals, and much of the major infrastructure related to health was destroyed.

Cambodia is about to become a lower middle-income country. Significant gains have also been made in the rebuilding of the health system through an extended process of health reform beginning in the 1990s. But for many people, health care is only available based on a "user pays" system. In a country that heavily relies on subsistence farming to survive, those poorer families with health concerns are often left untreated due to finances, access, and isolation from the limited health services that are accessible in the country.

Host sites in Cambodia

HS Global currently work with **multiple sites** in Cambodia which offer students the opportunity to practice their inter-professional skills in community settings. The sites are located around 300 km Northwest of the capital Phnom Penh - 3 in Siem Reap and 2 in Battambang.

As the placement progresses the students become independent and can begin to identify clients who require specific treatment which they are capable of providing or initiate health promotion sessions. Students are faced with the challenge of navigating complex health issues in a unique environment and will learn to problem solve by applying their theoretical knowledge. There may also be a component of teaching required to provide education for local staff members and sharing of knowledge, techniques and skills which are culturally appropriate for the community. Students will work with a team of interpreters who will assist with the culture and language. Each placement works with sites depending on the needs of each host site, student numbers and disciplines. All groups start and finish in Siem Reap and will take part in similar preparation sessions and orientation in country.



Siem Reap Sites

Krabei Riel Health Centre

Krabei Riel Health Centre is a community-based primary healthcare facility located in Krabei Riel Commune, near Siem Reap, Cambodia, serving a local population of approximately 9,000 people. As a public health centre, it plays an important role in delivering accessible frontline healthcare to surrounding villages, with services focused on general consultations, maternal and child health, health education, and the management of common community health conditions. The centre operates with a small multidisciplinary team, including a doctor, midwife, pharmacist and nursing staff, and sees approximately 30–40 patients per day.



For students, Krabei Riel Health Centre provides a valuable opportunity to observe healthcare delivery in a community and low-resource setting, while learning about culturally responsive practice and the challenges of delivering care across language, resource and public health barriers. Students may also gain insight into the prevention and management of health concerns commonly seen in the local community, including infectious diseases, gastrointestinal illness, malnutrition and other rural public health issues.

Krabei Riel Secondary School

Krabei Riel Lower Secondary School has been operating since 2008 and is located approximately 15 km from Siem Reap city, around a 30-minute drive from the town centre.

The school serves students from 12 surrounding villages in the Krabei Riel area, a community with a population of more than 12,000 people, the majority of whom are engaged in farming and seasonal agriculture, including the cultivation of rice, corn, beans and vegetables. In the 2022–2023 academic year, the school enrolled approximately 520 students, including 277 female students, and was staffed by 18 teachers (8 female) and one office staff member.



The school delivers education for Grades 7 to 9 across 11 classes, with 7 classes held in the morning and 4 in the afternoon, operating Monday to Saturday. Morning classes generally run from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm, while afternoon classes run from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Students at the school are typically aged between 12 and 17 years, and the curriculum includes a combination of academic subjects, sport, gardening and other co-curricular activities. As a lower secondary school in a semi-rural Cambodian setting, Krabei Riel provides students and visitors with valuable insight into the local education system and the social, cultural and community context in which young people learn and develop.

Grace House Community Centre



Established in 2008, Grace House Community Centre is a registered Cambodian non-government organisation (NGO) that is non-religious and non-political. Located in Korkranh village, approximately 4 km from central Siem Reap, Grace House works with local communities to improve opportunities for children and families through education, family support, and specialist services for children with disabilities.

Grace House supports children with a range of physical, developmental, and learning needs through individualised education and therapeutic programs designed to promote participation, communication, independence, and overall wellbeing. Services are delivered in a supportive community-based setting, with a strong focus on working collaboratively with children, families, and local staff to address each child's goals and areas of need. Students on placement at Grace House will work alongside local staff to support the assessment and intervention of children within classroom and therapy settings. Staff members and translators will assist students in liaising with families, identifying priorities for care, and contributing to culturally responsive, goal-focused support for children with disabilities in the Siem Reap Province.

Military Handicap Development Centre

This Government run purpose-built community for injured and retired soldiers and their families is approximately 45 minutes from Siem Reap. Each of the 250 families have been provided with a small concrete house and some land to grow food and make up the 4 villages of this community. There is a primary and secondary school on the site and a Health Clinic which is staffed by one doctor, two nurses and a midwife. The clinic serves the community of about 1500 people, and they have very limited resources and medication. Prevalent conditions at MHDC are alcoholism, domestic violence, back pain, diabetes, hypertension, PTSD, gastrointestinal issues, sexually



transmitted infections, dengue fever, TB, malaria, burns, stroke, acquired brain injury and chest infections. The clinic provides maternity and general health treatment, vaccinations and child health care.

Balaing Clinic and Community Health Centre



Located 27 kilometers or 46 minutes' drive from Siem Reap. Balaing clinic and Community Health Center serves nine villages within the Bakong district. The community is largely farming based with the majority of families housing up to 10 residents within a single-roomed dwelling. There is little infrastructure within the community and roads are largely unsealed, where homes are found along 'dirt' tracks. Each community has a village chief, who is responsible for the communities' law and order, and general wellbeing. The clinic is opened 24 hours, seven days a week, staffed only by nurses and provides maternity and general health treatment.

In the maternity sector, nurses are responsible for antenatal, delivery, postnatal and family planning care. In early-child health, the nurses provide child healthcare in the form of scheduled vaccinations and general growth monitoring. For general healthcare, the nurses provide wound care, dispense limited medications, management of hypertension and diabetes, gastrointestinal complaints, musculoskeletal conditions, trauma injuries, and mosquito-acquired diseases.



In mid-2018 a tuberculosis hospital opened adjacent to the clinic and is used for patients needing to remain at the clinic for short term treatment. Additionally, nurses provide monthly education to community health volunteer groups, which typically involves two volunteers per village who provide a community health service.



Battambang Sites

Physical Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) Battambang

The Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Battambang services the needs of the communities in five provinces in the north and north-west of Cambodia which was one of the largest land mined areas in the world. Recently it has increased its scope through a range of outreach activities, establishing itself as a flagship physical rehabilitation center. The number of disabled people benefiting from the services has increased annually and the center caters for pediatrics and adults.



The provision of prostheses, orthoses, wheelchairs and walking aids, physiotherapy, and rehabilitation following orthopedic surgery, neurology, trauma injuries and acquired brain injuries are a few of the services offered at the Centre. The facilities include a large well-equipped workshop and indoor and outdoor physiotherapy areas.



Handa Trauma Centre

The Handa Foundation's Battambang hospital service includes World Mate Emergency Hospital and the adjacent Handa Medical Center, which together provide trauma, emergency, surgical, and general medical care to communities across northwest Cambodia. Established in 1998, the service was originally developed to provide free trauma and surgical care to victims of war, poverty, and landmines, and it continues to support disadvantaged patients while responding to the changing healthcare needs of the region.



Today, the Battambang site manages a broad caseload across emergency, trauma, orthopaedic, medical, surgical, and rehabilitation settings. In addition to trauma-related presentations, students may encounter patients with fractures, amputations, acquired brain injury, respiratory illness, chronic disease, and general medical conditions requiring acute and ongoing care.

The hospital service also includes access to medical imaging, laboratory, pharmacy, physiotherapy, and inpatient care, providing students with exposure to multidisciplinary practice in a resource-limited international healthcare setting.

Students on placement work alongside local healthcare staff to support assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, and patient education across a range of clinical areas. The site is also an important training facility for Cambodian doctors and nurses, with a strong focus on building local healthcare capacity while delivering high-quality care to the Battambang community.



China

China is the third largest country in the world by land mass encompassing 9.6 million square kilometres, with the world's largest population of 1.42 billion people as of 2026. With a civilization over 5,000 years old, it is considered one of the four ancient civilizations of the world. The capital of China is Beijing and the main language spoken is Mandarin Chinese of which there are seven dialects. China's healthcare system has improved significantly over the past decade, and in this time has undergone significant reorganisation to achieve universal health-care coverage by 2020 (World Health Organisation, 2005). Some gains apparent during this time of change include an improved life expectancy, a lowered child mortality rate and reduced cases of infectious diseases.



Despite progress, challenges remain—especially in addressing healthcare access disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as among China's ageing population. In recent years, China has also become a leader in digital health innovation, with the integration of telemedicine, AI diagnostics, and electronic health records into its public health system, particularly accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



China is also home to an ageing population, which is increasing the pressure on the healthcare system. The 'one child policy', which was introduced in 1979 to control the dramatically increasing population, is also taking its toll on the healthcare system. In Chinese culture, the elderly receive care from their children whilst still living at home. However, as the elderly population continues to grow and the availability of family caregivers decreases, they are increasingly needing to seek care in hospitals and residential care facilities.

The public hospitals in China are classified under level one, two or three. Healthcare in China consists of a mix of public and private medical institutions and insurance programs. As of recent years, over 95% of the population has access to at least basic health insurance through government-run schemes. However, public health insurance typically covers only a portion of medical expenses—often around 50–70%—with lower reimbursement rates for complex or chronic conditions. Under initiatives like **"Healthy China 2020"** and the ongoing **"Healthy China 2030"** strategy, the Chinese government has focused on expanding coverage, reducing out-of-pocket costs, and improving access to essential services. Efforts have included

drug price reforms, improved rural healthcare access, and investments in primary care. China has also become a key market for global health-related companies and a growing centre for biomedical research and pharmaceutical development.



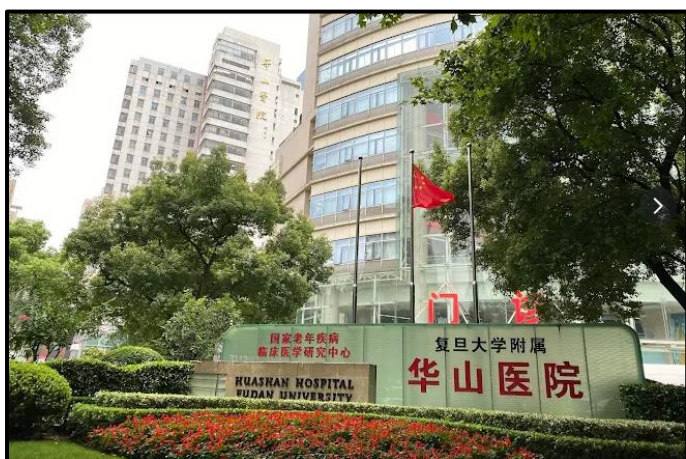
All major cities have hospitals specializing in different fields and are equipped with some modern facilities. Residents in urban areas are not provided with free healthcare, they must either pay for treatment or purchase health insurance. The quality of care varies across institutions, with top-tier medical services often found in foreign-operated or joint venture hospitals located in cities like Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

These Western-style facilities, staffed by international professionals, cater primarily to expatriates and affluent locals, but their services can be significantly more expensive—sometimes up to ten times the cost of public hospitals. Rural regions often face challenges such as limited access to medical resources, fewer healthcare professionals, and inadequate infrastructure. To address these issues, the Chinese government has been promoting telemedicine and digital health initiatives, aiming to bridge the urban-rural healthcare gap. By 2024, approximately 70% of primary-level clinics nationwide had established remote medical collaborations with higher-level hospitals, enhancing access to quality care in underserved areas.

Host sites in China

Health Science Global Experiences has partnerships with Hua Shan Hospital in Shanghai and both hospitals are classed as level three which is the **highest level** in the country's hospital classification system. The sites selected by the Program will depend on the needs of each host site, student numbers and disciplines. All groups start and finish in Shanghai and will take part in similar preparation sessions and orientations in country.

Huashan Hospital Shanghai



Founded in 1907, Huashan Hospital is one of Shanghai's leading tertiary teaching hospitals and is affiliated with Fudan University. With more than a century of history, the hospital has developed into a major provider of healthcare, education, and research in China, serving both local and international patients through a large multi-campus network in Shanghai. Huashan Hospital provides a comprehensive range of inpatient and outpatient services across a broad spectrum of specialties, supported by more than 3,000 hospital beds, 44 clinical and medical technology departments, and several nationally recognised centres of excellence.

The hospital is particularly well known for its strengths in neurology, neurosurgery, dermatology, infectious diseases, hand surgery, rehabilitation medicine, and other complex medical and surgical specialties. As one of the premier healthcare institutions in Shanghai and the surrounding region, Huashan Hospital

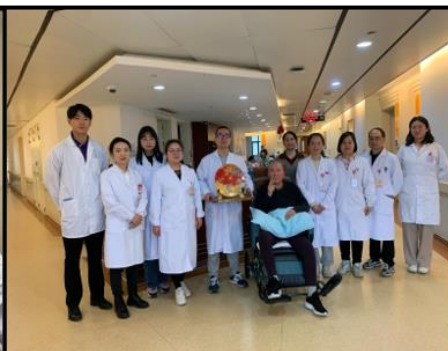
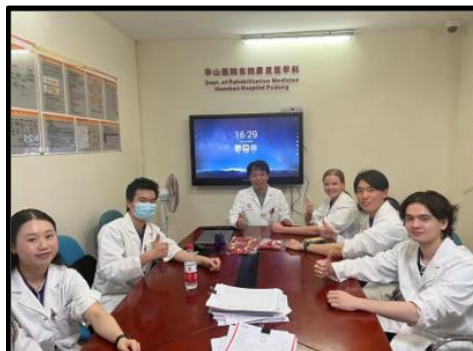
manages a very high patient volume each year, with millions of outpatient and emergency presentations, close to 200,000 inpatient discharges, and more than 100,000 surgical procedures annually. In addition to its clinical services, Huashan Hospital is a major teaching hospital for Fudan University, providing education and training for medical students, residents, and specialist trainees, while also maintaining extensive research and international collaboration links with leading institutions around the world.



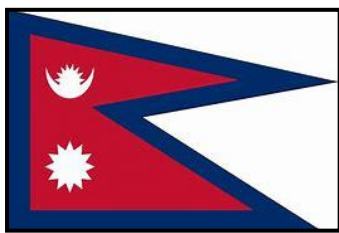
Sunshine Rehabilitation Hospital

A public hospital in Shanghai District in the province of Songjiang. Affiliated with the Tongji University and originally built in 2007 for rehabilitation of athletes in the Special Olympics. Adult and Paediatric rehabilitation, spinal cord rehabilitation Integration of traditional Chinese medicine and modern medicine. Many patients live at the centre for the duration of their treatment.

There are a variety of clinical departments including paediatrics, orthopaedics, neurology, spinal cord injury and integrated traditional Chinese medicine. HS Global students will work across a variety of departments with the local therapists and therapy students from China and Hong Kong to provide inter-professional intervention to their wide-ranging clients and identify appropriate opportunities to share Australian discipline-specific practices with local students and local supervisors.



Nepal



Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia, situated primarily in the Himalayas and extending into parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain. With an estimated population of 31.1 million as of 2024, it shares borders with China to the north and India to the south. Although it does not border Bangladesh directly, Nepal lies just 27 kilometres from its southeastern tip, while the Indian state of Sikkim separates Nepal from Bhutan. The country features diverse geography,

including fertile plains, forested subalpine hills, and eight of the world's ten tallest mountains—most notably Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth. Kathmandu is the capital and largest city. Nepal is a multiethnic nation, with Nepali recognized as the official language.

Despite its rich cultural and natural heritage, Nepal remains one of the world's poorest countries. Approximately 45% of the population lives below the poverty line, and nearly 50% of children under the age of three suffer from stunted growth. The country is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides.



Healthcare services in Nepal are provided by both public and private sectors; however, they often fall short of international standards, particularly in rural and underserved regions. The country continues to grapple with a high burden of communicable diseases, malnutrition, and inadequate sanitation, disproportionately affecting impoverished communities.

Despite these challenges, Nepal has made significant strides in maternal and child health. As of 2023, the maternal mortality ratio declined to 142 per 100,000 live births, marking a 71% reduction since 2000. These improvements are attributed to enhanced access to maternal and newborn health services, increased immunisation coverage, and strengthened community health programs. Additionally, recent health sector reforms, including strategic health insurance initiatives and infrastructure development, aim to build a more robust, inclusive, and modern healthcare system.

Pokhara



Pokhara is vibrant city approximately 200 km west of Kathmandu with a population of around 420,000, this placement combines valuable professional learning with meaningful cultural immersion. Surrounded by the stunning Annapurna Mountain range and situated alongside the picturesque Phewa Lake, Pokhara provides an inspiring setting for students to live, learn, and engage with the local community. As part of the program, students will participate in country and cultural

orientation designed to support their transition into the local environment and healthcare context. The placement experience also includes opportunities to explore Nepal's rich cultural heritage through visits to temples, local marketplaces, historical landmarks, and health-related sites, offering students a deeper understanding of the country, its traditions, and its healthcare system.

Host Sites in Nepal

Centre for Independent Living



CIL- Kathmandu (Center for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities, Kathmandu), an organization in special consultative status with UN ECOSOC, is a non-profit, non-political, self-help organization run by and for persons with disabilities. It is the first disabled persons' organization established to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities through the concept of 'Independent Living' in Nepal. It was established in Nepal following the people's movement in 2006 by a group of leaders within the disability movement. Their aim to protect and promote the rights of people with disabilities so that they can live independently in the community. CIL-Kathmandu is working toward raising awareness of disability in Nepal with the aim of changing negative perceptions and creating a more inclusive attitude.

For students undertaking placement experiences connected with CIL-Kathmandu, the organisation offers valuable insight into **community-based disability support, disability advocacy, inclusive practice, and rights-based approaches to health and social care** in Nepal. This setting provides an important opportunity to better understand the lived experiences of people with disabilities, the barriers they may face in accessing services and participation, and the role of advocacy and community support in promoting independence, inclusion, and social justice.

CIL-Kathmandu's work highlights the importance of person-centred practice and demonstrates how disability support can move beyond care alone to focus on empowerment, dignity, choice, and active participation in community life. Program activities may include peer counselling, self-care strategies, education around assistive devices and personal attendants, and discussions around disability rights and inclusion.

Sathi Sansar Nepal

This is an NGO Family Day Centre for children with cerebral palsy from the Pokhara region and the children are aged from 3 – 15 years. There are three centers – one is in a rural area which has 20 children, and the other two centers are in central Pokhara, with approximately 8 children in each center. The teachers and carers are trained onsite and there are no qualified allied health professionals providing care and therapy for the children. The IPP teamwork with the Centre staff and provide education and therapy to the children at each of the centers. It is suited to physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, psychology, social work, nursing, and dietetics and nutrition students.



The Sathi Sansar Nepal interventions can be described as being ‘child-based’ or ‘community-based’:

i. Child-based Interventions

- Special education and rehabilitation centre services
- Home-based education and rehabilitation services
- Inclusive Education support services

ii. Community-based Interventions

- Awareness raising
- Social mobilization
- Early Detection
- Advocacy
- Capacity building
- Resource provision and development



Green Pastures Hospital

This is a 70-bed Christian NGO hospital located approximately 15 minutes from Lakeside Pokhara. Established in 1957, the hospital has a long-standing history of serving the poor and marginalized communities of Nepal. Initially founded as a specialist leprosy hospital, it has since evolved into a comprehensive medical facility offering a wide range of specialized and general health services. These include care for spinal disorders and neurosurgical conditions, orthopaedics, spinal cord injuries, hand surgery, stroke management, cerebral palsy, amputations, prosthetics and orthotics, rehabilitation, dermatology, plastic and reconstructive surgery, palliative care, general medicine, and ear surgery. The hospital is also recognized as a valuable clinical placement site for students and professionals across a variety of health disciplines. These include nursing, speech pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, medicine, dietetics, nutrition, and psychology. Its multidisciplinary approach and focus on holistic, patient-centred care make it an ideal environment for learning and service in a resource-limited setting.



Manipal Hospital



Manipal Hospital, established in 1994, is a private, 700-bed teaching hospital affiliated with Kathmandu University. It serves as a major training site for medical and nursing students and is the largest hospital in Western Nepal. The facility is well-equipped, featuring seven operating theatres, a 30-bed emergency department, comprehensive medical imaging and radiotherapy services, two labour rooms, medical and surgical intensive care units (ICUs), a neurosurgical ICU, cardiac care unit (CCU), paediatric and neonatal ICUs, a haemodialysis unit, three pharmacies, and a range of outpatient clinics. **Specialty Service:** The hospital offers a wide array of specialty services, including cardiology, neurosurgery, gastroenterology, hematology, medical oncology and radiotherapy, oral and maxillofacial surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, orthopaedic and general surgery, internal

medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, oncology surgery, nephrology, and cardiothoracic surgery.

Program Structure and Activities

The **Health Sciences Global Experience Program** provides students with the opportunity to practice within their scope of practice and course learnings in country and offers students a unique opportunity to engage directly in real-world global health settings.

This immersive experience is designed to allow Health Sciences students to actively participate in meaningful community or hospital-based health activities that complement and enrich their overall degree experience. Through hands-on projects, cultural engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration, students will develop critical thinking, adaptability, and cross-cultural communication skills while addressing genuine health needs within local communities.



Program Structure

Students undertake a 4-week in-country placement, completing a total of approximately 150 hours of fieldwork experience. During this time, students engage in placement activities designed to support their learning, professional development, and understanding of health systems and practice in an international context. For most Health Sciences students, participation in HS Global is **linked to a specific unit within their degree**, allowing the placement to be completed as a **credit-bearing component**. This means that the fieldwork contributes directly towards academic requirements, provided all program expectations and assessment criteria are successfully met.

Crediting requirements typically include satisfactory completion of the full placement hours, active participation in all required activities, adherence to professional and conduct standards, and submission of any associated academic tasks or reflective assessments as outlined by the relevant unit coordinator.



Activities in Country

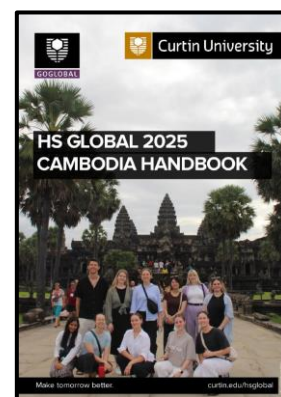
- **Cultural Exchange:** Students will participate in meaningful cultural immersion activities, including basic language lessons, enabling them to respectfully engage with and better understand the local community and its cultural context.
- **Health Care Systems:** Gain insight into local healthcare systems while developing an understanding of health disparities, access challenges, and broader developmental issues impacting community wellbeing.
- **Community Needs Assessment:** Conduct structured needs assessments to identify and analyse current community health priorities, strengthening students' skills in data collection, observation, and critical evaluation.
- **Deliver Health Promotion:** Design and facilitate interactive health promotion presentations aimed at improving community knowledge, awareness, and preventative health practices.
- **Resource Development:** Develop sustainable educational resources to support long-term health initiatives, such as murals, posters, and workshop materials tailored to community needs.
- **Fundraising:** As part of the placements students will be fundraising as a group to help resource limited sites.

Program Preparation

As a HS Global participant, students are expected to take an active role in preparing for what is both a challenging and rewarding international placement experience. Working in a new, multidisciplinary team within a foreign cultural and healthcare context requires thoughtful preparation. Participation in the **Pre-Departure Workshop and completion of pre-reading materials** is a **mandatory** and essential component of placement preparation. This program includes a series of structured handbooks, interactive workshops, and assessments. Students are required to engage fully with all aspects of the program to ensure they are adequately prepared for their overseas experience.

Country Handbooks

Each student will receive a **country-specific handbook**, which provides detailed information on a range of important topics, including cultural background, host site details, daily routines, placement structure, student responsibilities, and logistical requirements. The handbook also outlines key dates, submission deadlines, and includes a checklist of mandatory documents. It is essential that students read their handbook thoroughly as soon as it becomes available. All handbooks will be accessible via Blackboard once students are approved for our program in 2027.



Health Sciences Global Experiences Program, facilitators will be required to complete additional mandatory reading and training materials prior to departure along with the students. These resources are designed to ensure facilitators are well prepared and informed about program expectations, student support responsibilities, and country-specific information. Further details and access to these materials will be provided closer to the commencement of the program.

Country Pre-departure Workshop

Once students are allocated to their placement, they will be provided with a number of opportunities to get to know the rest of their “group”. One of these opportunities includes a country-specific Pre-departure workshop that in addition to meeting the rest of your team provides students with valuable information about the placement and host site. Some topics covered in the workshop include:

- Destination and host site details
- Team building
- Cultural sensitivity and cross-cultural communication
- Working with interpreters
- What to wear / HS Global uniform
- Fundraising
- Country-specific requirements
- Assessments and important dates
- Documents to submit and logistical information
- Visa Requirements
- Pre-advisory trip details
- Meeting the team and facilitators
- Tips and tricks



Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Students will be required to complete the following assessments as an integral part of their program preparation, experience, reflection and evaluation:

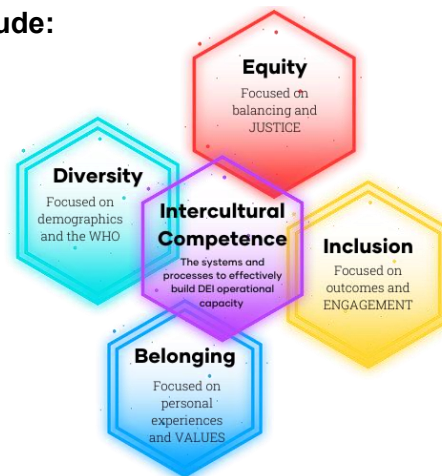
- **Learning Objectives-** You will be required to write three learning objectives and this will enable you to focus your learning on specific areas and can help you to maximize your time spent on your placement.
- **Reflective Journal-** in order to gain the most from the experience, you are to complete four reflection pieces to assist you to process your placement experiences on a personal and professional level.
- **Project Summary Report :** This is a significant contributor to sustaining the service that the students have provided and assists future students to carry on with the work.

Upon successful completion of the program, you will be able to:

- **Reflect on personal and professional development:** Critically evaluate your growth in cross-cultural competence, understanding how your attitudes, behaviours, and professional skills evolve when engaging with diverse communities in an international service-learning context.
- **Demonstrate and evaluate interprofessional practice:** Collaborate effectively with professionals from various disciplines, applying theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios and assessing the effectiveness of teamwork in achieving healthcare outcomes.
- **Analyse and document healthcare system influences:** Identify and synthesise the social, economic, political, and cultural factors that shape the healthcare system of your host community, and produce evidence-based reports or presentations that communicate these insights clearly.
- **Design and implement community-based health projects:** Plan, execute, and assess projects that address the specific health needs of your host site, contributing to sustainable outcomes and reflecting ethical, culturally sensitive practices.

Cultural competencies and employability skills that you will gain include:

- Knowledge of the Indo-Asia region
- Cross-cultural communication skills with a range of stakeholders
- Work-readiness with regional experience
- Leadership and Teamwork skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Conflict management skills
- Interprofessional experience and knowledge
- Global Citizenship skills



Student Support, Assistance and Safety

Curtin University has a strong network of professionals who are available to assist students in a range of scenarios in the lead up to their departure, whilst on placement and once they have returned to Perth. There are certain support services which will be provided such as staff support from the HS Global team, faculty support, emergency services, host and facilitator assistance and insurance covers.



Support from HS Global Team

HS Global staff are on hand to provide advice and information in the lead-up to your placement. In the event of an emergency, students call International SOS and to inform us immediately of the situation.

Host Site staff



Each HS Global placement site is supported by a dedicated local host who plays an important role in assisting students throughout their placement experience. Students will be introduced to their local contact upon arrival in-country, and this person will act as a key point of support for the duration of the program. The local host is there to help students settle into their new environment and navigate the practical, professional and cultural aspects of living and undertaking placement overseas.

The role of the local host includes providing an in-country orientation, introducing students to the placement site and local area, and offering guidance on day-to-day logistics such as transport, communication, accommodation arrangements and navigating the local community. Local hosts are often instrumental in helping students feel safe, supported and connected during their time overseas, and can assist with problem-solving, communication and general wellbeing throughout the placement.

In addition to the local host, an HS Global **facilitator** will accompany students in-country for **the first two weeks** of the placement. During this time, the facilitator provides pastoral care and practical support to help students transition into the program, settle into their placement site and country, and adjust to living in a new cultural setting. The facilitator's role is to support students during the initial adjustment period, ensure they are familiar with expectations and routines, and assist with any concerns that may arise as they begin their placement. This early in-country support is designed to help students build confidence, establish a sense of routine, and feel well prepared to engage in the placement experience both professionally and personally.

International SOS

Through Curtin University's membership with [International SOS](#), students will have access to 24/7 expert advice and assistance for travel, medical and security queries during their placement. Students will also gain access to the ISOS Assistance App, a tool that provides medical and travel guides at your fingertips enabling you to contact the nearest Assistance Centre for help or advice when needed.

Curtin Comprehensive Travel Insurance

Curtin University provides comprehensive Travel Insurance for approved Curtin travel, whether you are travelling within Australia domestically, or internationally. HS Global students are covered under this policy for the duration of the placement. We recommend you visit Curtin's [Risk and Assurance webpage](#) for further information about the travel insurance including ongoing private travel post placement and cover for spouse/partner and dependent children.

Smartraveller Registration



HS Global recommends students register their travel plans with [Smartraveller](#) prior to departure. This information is provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade cover safety information including issues of security, civil unrest, crime, and health. You can register your trip online through your Smartraveller account. This information can be found [here](#) on the Smartraveller website.

Financial Assistances and Scholarships

Centrelink Payments



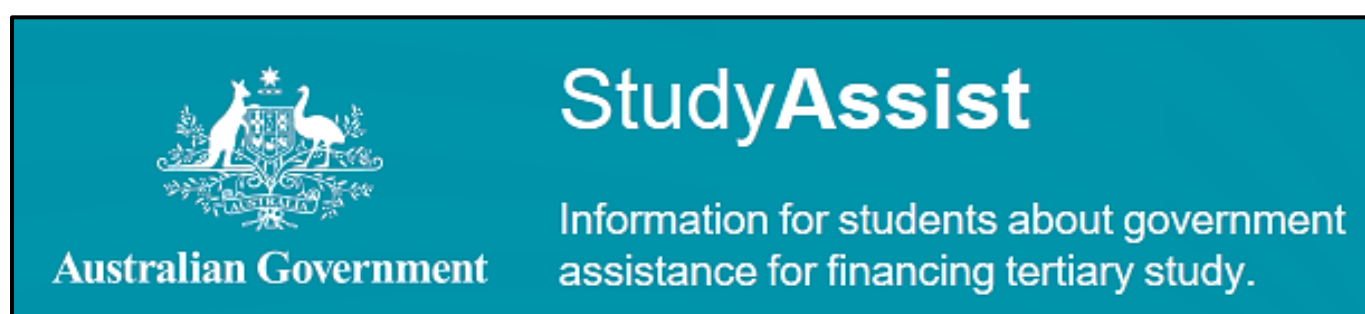
Centrelink generally stop payments if you have left the country. To ensure students continue receiving their payments whilst on their HS Global placement, Centrelink need to be provided with a Letter to Confirm Enrolment.

Centrelink will **ONLY** accept this letter for students who:

- Are undertaking their placement **For Credit**
- Are enrolled **full time**.

Please contact **Curtin Connect** for the Centrelink Letter. It is advisable to obtain this letter at least 4 - 6 weeks before your departure date of your placement.

OS-HELP



OS-HELP is a financial assistance initiative introduced by the Commonwealth Government to assist eligible students with expenses related to undertaking part of their Australian degree overseas. The loan helps cover costs such as travel, living expenses and other study-related expenses while completing an approved overseas study or placement that counts towards their degree:

- ☐ Australian citizen, Permanent Humanitarian Visa holder, eligible New Zealand Special Category Visa (SCV) holder, or Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV) holder
- ☐ Undertaking an international placement or study experience that counts **for credit** towards their Curtin degree
- ☐ Enrolled in a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) at Curtin University during the overseas placement
- ☐ Not have received more than one OS-HELP loan previously (maximum of two loans in total, with no overlap in six-month study periods)
- ☐ Completed at least 1 Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL) of study towards their current course at Curtin University (this may include recognised prior learning/CRL)
- ☐ Academic status of Good Standing
- ☐ Study full-time whilst overseas
- ☐ Have at least 0.125 EFTSL (approximately one unit / 25 credits) remaining in their current course upon returning from overseas study
- ☐ Have a valid Tax File Number (TFN) and Unique Student Identifier (USI)

Please note that student may not apply for OS-HELP more than 6 months before placement. For more information regarding OS-HELP loan and how to obtain further details please email via goglobal@curtin.edu.au or phone 1300 222 888 (ask for Go Global).

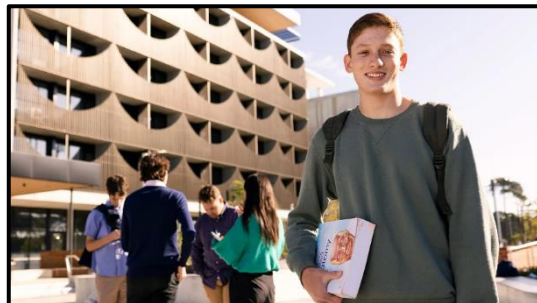


Please read the information provided in the link below for more information relating to OS-HELP applications:

1. <https://www.curtin.edu.au/students/experience/global/funding/os-help-loan/>
2. <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/financial-and-study-support/os-help-and-overseas-study>

Scholarships

Curtin University offers a range of scholarships to support students in their academic journey, including merit-based, equity, and program-specific awards. While current scholarships are open to eligible students, there may also be future scholarship opportunities specifically for those participating in Global placements. We encourage students to regularly check the Curtin Scholarships website and HS Global announcements for the latest updates on application openings and eligibility criteria required to pay the full placement fee for their country of visit if they wish to proceed if they were to be successful in their application with us.



Scholarships Website: <https://www.curtin.edu.au/study/scholarships/>

Program Eligibility Criteria and Requirements

Health Sciences Global Experiences is available to health sciences students from most disciplines. Students who are in their **second of their undergraduate degree** or higher at the time of placement, may be eligible to apply. **Please note** that the eligibility criteria is discipline-specific and determined by each School. Please speak to your School Fieldwork Coordinator to confirm if you are eligible and which placement you can apply for.

To participate in HS Global, students must meet certain criteria and adhere to a number of requirements. The criteria, requirements and expectations are outlined below. In addition, students are required to meet with their School Fieldwork Coordinator to discuss their intentions to apply to ensure that HS Global placement is suitable for your course and does not conflict with requirements or expectations. It is also important to check that the preparation sessions and placement travel dates do not clash with exams or classes.

Program Requirements

Before you apply, please check that you meet the following criteria and expectations.

- ☐ **In Good Standing (Academic Status) preceding placement approval**
- ☐ **Course Weighted Average (CWA) of 60% or more**
- ☐ Able to undertake the time commitment for preparation sessions, group and individual assignments and the 4-week overseas placement
- ☐ Must be in Perth to participate in all preparation sessions and assessments
- ☐ Meet all HS Global deadlines by the due dates provided
- ☐ Able to obtain all mandatory vaccinations relevant to the chosen destination
- ☐ Must have a passport with at least **six months** validity on return to Australia at time of departure
- ☐ Eligible to obtain a visa for chosen HS Global destination



Conditions of Participation

As a participant of HS Global, you will need to acknowledge and agree on the application form that:

- ☐ Whilst participating in an international fieldwork placement as an enrolled student of Curtin University, you are subject to its statutes, policies and procedures relating to study, courses and awards
- ☐ Appropriate standards of behaviour are expected. You are aware that any adverse behaviour will not only reflect on yourself but also on the University and future participants in the placement
- ☐ Whilst on this international fieldwork placement, you will be under Curtin's custody care and control and therefore must follow its reasonable directions
- ☐ Whilst attending the host institution you will abide by the rules and regulations pertinent to the host institution (these will be discussed with you when you arrive at your placement)
- ☐ You are required to travel with the HS Global group from Perth to the host country
- ☐ You will obtain appropriate medical advice regarding the necessary vaccinations, immunizations and health requirements required for your travel to the host country
- ☐ You must notify the HS Global team of any pre-medical conditions and obtain a Fitness to Travel Form and manage the rigours of the travel certificate from your treating physician along with medications.
- ☐ You further acknowledge that as a participant in an overseas fieldwork experience you will be regarded by the host institution as an enrolled student of Curtin University.
- ☐ You will follow the Health and Safety Risk Management Plan for the fieldwork placement and abide by the obligations imposed in it
- ☐ You acknowledge that should you breach Curtin University's Student Charter or Curtin's Values and Signature Behaviours or any other policy, you could have your HS Global placement terminated.
- ☐ Students may be excluded from undertaking the HS Global placement for the following reasons:
 - Students who are on Conditional Status or have a course weighted average of less than 60
 - Students who have failed or have been at risk of failing a previous fieldwork placement
 - Medical or personal reasons if the student is at risk of endangering themselves or others
 - If any of the following are breached: Curtin University 'Student Charter'; Curtin University's 'Curtin's Values and Signature Behaviours' or Professional association 'Code of Ethics', (e.g. Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics)
 - Upon recommendation of the school, HS Global reserves the right to withdraw the offer of the placement from the student.

Student Experience

Students who have participated in HS Global placements through Curtin University consistently describe the experience as both personally and professionally transformative. Through hands-on community projects, health placements, and cultural immersion activities, students gain valuable practical skills, expand their global awareness, and develop a deeper understanding of healthcare challenges in different cultural contexts. Many students report increased confidence, resilience, and adaptability, as they navigate new environments and work collaboratively with local partners. The program not only enhances their academic learning but also fosters meaningful connections with international communities, leaving students with lasting memories, a broadened perspective, and a renewed sense of purpose in their future careers. Overall, HS Global placements are seen as an unforgettable opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings while making a positive social impact.



Course and Unit Crediting

Participation in a Health Sciences (HS) Global program is typically linked to a credit-bearing unit within your degree. Students who undertake an approved global placement may be eligible to enrol in the relevant unit, allowing them to receive academic credit towards their course while completing their international placement experience. The availability of the unit and eligibility requirements may vary depending on your degree and discipline, so students are encouraged to discuss their options with their Course Coordinator or the HS Global team before applying. As a general guide, some unit for specific degrees have been provided below. **WORK3004 requires manual enrolment via the HS Global team if approved.**

Courses	Placement Unit	Recommended Year Level
Elective for Health Science, Psychology, Biomedical Science, Advanced Biomedical Science	WORK3004 – Go Practice: Internship	Varies (Elective Year)
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	GMED4003 – Medicine 5 – <i>Please note CMS students travel only during Dec-Jan period.</i>	5th Year
Biomedical Science & Advanced Biomedical Science (Honours)	WORK3004 – Go Practice: Internship (Optional)	2nd or 3rd Year
Occupational Therapy	OCCT3005 – Leadership in Community Occupational Therapy Practice	3rd Year
Health Promotion	PUBH3003 – Applied Public Health Practice	3rd Year
Health Science	WORK3004 – Go Practice: Internship (Optional)	2nd Year (WORK3004) or 3rd Year (PUBH3003)
Psychology	WORK3004 – Go Practice: Internship (Optional)	2nd or 3rd Year –
Master of Public Health	PUBH6025 – Public Health Special Topics and PUBH6009 – Public Health Practicum	2nd Year
Master of Sexology	PUBH6009 – Public Health Practicum	2nd Year
Radiation Therapy/ Medical Imaging	MIRA3001 and MIRA3009	3rd & 4th Year
Nutrition and Food Science	NUTR3007 – Nutrition Professional Practice	3rd Year
Physiotherapy	PHTY4015 – Physiotherapy Clinics 5	4 th Year

Program Dates and Cost For 2027

Students **MUST** consult your course coordinator and fieldwork team before applying for the program so that you know what options are available for you. A number of factors contribute to the places we offer, some of which include requests from School Fieldwork Coordinators and fieldwork directors, discipline suitability and maximum capacity.

Please keep in mind that in round 2, a large number of places have already been allocated to students who applied in round one. HS Global offers the program twice a year. Whilst the following dates are likely to be as stated, they are to be considered tentative until we have allocated all places and paid for the flights:

Program Fee and Payment

The fee for Health Science Global Experiences 2027 is outlined below. As a Curtin University program, we are here to offer a service and provide opportunities for our students. We are not for profit and aim to keep the cost down as much as possible.

DESTINATION		COST
	CAMBODIA (4 WEEKS)	\$6,500
	CHINA (4 WEEKS)	\$6,500
	NEPAL (4 WEEKS)	\$6,500

DURATION		STUDENT NUMBERS
	June – July	12
	November – December	12
	June – July	12
	November – December	12
	June – July	12
	November – December	12

What's included?

- Return and Departure flights between Perth and the host country
- Pre-departure Preparation Program and administration of the placement
- Accommodation for the duration of the fieldwork placement
- An orientation program on arrival in country
- Some meals and transport (breakfast and lunches during the weekday) – destination dependant).
- Travel insurance and 24-hour access to emergency support for the period of placement
- Dedicated host partner and a team of interpreters – site dependent
- Transportation whilst in country
- Interpreters – destination specific
- Placement site support



Note:

- A **\$250 deposit** is required to be made once you have submitted your application.
- The remainder can be paid in full or instalments (whichever you prefer) as long as the deadline is met
- The **balance payment** must be paid in full by the following dates:
 - **November - December 2027 placement: by Mid-August 2027**
 - **June - July 2027 placement: by End of February 2027**



Please note the above dates are subject to change. These are **TENTATIVE DATES**

Expenditure Overview

In addition to the cost of the placement, students also need to keep in mind there will be other additional costs such as **vaccinations, visas, and purchasing of personal items** whilst in the country.

It is difficult to estimate how much money to take with you as it varies destination to destination and depends on how much travel and sightseeing, and shopping students do in their free time. As a guide, we would recommend a budget of **approximately \$800-\$1000 for 4 weeks** depending on the country of placement.

Information Sessions for 2027 Applications

The HS Global information sessions at Curtin University are designed to provide comprehensive insights into the Health Sciences Global Experiences program.

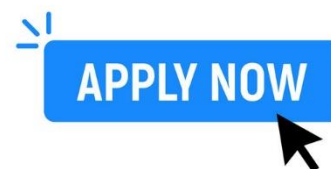
Program overview and benefits, placement destinations and experiences, how to apply and selection criteria, financial support and discuss any queries. Please refer to the [Health Science Global Experiences](#) website for **location** and **time**.

The information sessions for 2027 will be held during the application 1 round opening. Round 1 for 2027 will likely be opening towards the end of 2026. Further details will be communicated via the website.

2027 HS Global Application Process

How to Apply?

- 1) Read this Program Guide thoroughly and speak to your School Fieldwork Coordinator before applying to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria and can commit to the 2027 placement.
- 2) Visit [Health Science Global Experiences](#) webpage.
- 3) Complete the application prior to closing date via website.
- 4) Pay **\$250 deposit** via [this link](#) on the HS Global website.



If interested in finding out more about the OS-HELP loan then visit the link here: [OS-HELP Loan](#). Other information on financial support services offered at Curtin can be found [here](#)

Selection Process

HS Global placements are limited with each group comprising a maximum number and capacity according to discipline and host site. To give students the best chance of securing a placement, students can select up to three sites (1st – 3rd preference) when applying, and the HS Global team assesses applications as outlined below.

- Interprofessional placement and selection is very competitive
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences (preferences must be for a placement you are willing to commit to)
- The highest Course Weighted Average awarded a place in program
- Quality of their selection criteria as judged by the HS Global team, course coordinators and fieldwork team in some instances especially for occupational therapy, speech pathology, medical radiation science and physiotherapy students.
- The possibility of an interview- discipline dependent especially for occupational therapy students.
- Appeals regarding exclusion from HS Global opportunities are to be made to the student's School Fieldwork Coordinator in writing within 10 days of the notification.

Withdrawing from the Program

If you need to withdraw from HS Global for any reason, you **must notify the HS Global team by email as soon as possible**. This is important as flights, accommodation and other placement-related arrangements may be booked **3–4 months before departure**.

If you withdraw after these bookings have been made, you will be responsible for any **non-refundable costs and cancellation fees** incurred on your behalf. Depending on the reason for your withdrawal, you may be eligible to submit a claim through **Curtin travel insurance**; however, this will depend on the circumstances and the terms of the policy. Students are encouraged to review the relevant insurance information before travel.

Please note that if you are withdrawn from HS Global at the request of your School due to **poor academic performance, professional conduct concerns, or failure to meet placement requirements**, the same conditions regarding reimbursement of non-refundable costs will still apply.

The HS Global Team Contact Details

HEALTH SCIENCES GLOBAL EXPERIENCES TEAM

To secure an appointment please contact us via email or phone

Email: HSglobal@curtin.edu.au

Phone: 08 9266 7008

Web: curtin.edu/HSglobal

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/curtin_hsglobal

STAFF

Go Global Director

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