

Students' International Health Association



c/o International Centre
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University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB Canada
T6G 2E2
siha@ualberta.ca
(780)492-8587

Application for 2009-2010 International Projects

****Please note that SIHA has *two* committees: International and Local. These involve separate applications, interviews and training. Acceptance into one project, does not guarantee acceptance into other SIHA projects****

Office: SUB 040E – Within the Student Groups' Lounge, Lower Level

Please complete this application and return it along with a non-refundable \$5 application and administrative fee to SUB 040E (just slide it under the door) by Monday, September 28. Each applicant must sign up for a personal interview at this time. Signup sheets will be on the office door. The personal interviews will take place between September 28 and October 1 in SUB 040E. Successful candidates will be asked to return to a group interview on Saturday, October 3 from 10am-4pm. The list of those applicants asked to return to the group interview will be posted on the office door after 9am on Friday, October 2. Individuals who are selected to participate in an international project are required to be a member of the SIHA Executive for one year after the completion of their project. Further details regarding the application process can be found on the back of this application. For more information, visit www.siha.ca. Questions can be directed to siha@ualberta.ca.

Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

E-mail: _____

Student ID: _____

Faculty & Current Year of Study: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

First Language: _____ Other Language(s): _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Immigration Status

Do you have a valid Canadian passport? _____ or other nationality: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence other than a traffic violation? _____

Project Information

Have you ever travelled overseas? _____

If yes, where and for how long?

Have you ever worked/volunteered overseas? _____

If yes, where and for how long?

Written Answers

On a separate sheet of paper please answer all of the following questions. Each question should be answered in 400 words or less.

1. What do you see as SIHA's role in a host country?
2. How do you feel an international experience with SIHA will better you as a person or benefit you in the future?
3. What do you think is the biggest challenge the developing world faces in regards to health issues?

Declaration

I hereby declare that the foregoing information is correct and complete to my knowledge. I understand that a false statement may disqualify me from these international projects.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Requirements

Before handing in your application, please ensure that the following are submitted in a sealed envelope that reads: ATTN: SIHA International Projects.

1. SIHA Application and Administration Fee - \$5.00 (make cheques payable to SIHA)
2. Completed Application Form – including written answers
3. Current Resume or CV

Team Selection Process 2009-2010

To effectively meet our goals and mandates, each year we select members from a pool of interested applicants by means of an intense interview process. International work is both challenging and rewarding, and it is the duty of the SIHA Executive to select members who will successfully represent SIHA in a professional and positive way. There are 3 phases to team selection, each which meet several objectives and seek different qualifications. They are as follows:

Application Document

- To see the preliminary qualifications of the applicant. This enables us to consider circumstances like a previous criminal record, life threatening allergies, or other travel concerns that would make it difficult to travel abroad.
- Applicants are asked questions to assess their mental preparedness for international travel.
- Past experience is an asset, but not required.

Individual Interview

- Applicants are able to voice concerns and ask questions pertaining to the project.
- Applicants are assessed for their ability to live abroad in a lower standard of living, handle fears and international problems, and perform volunteer work in a foreign environment.
- Applicants' personalities are assessed and several criteria are looked at including communication skills, openness to new ideas, and adaptability

Group Interview

- Applicants' abilities to act as both a group member and group leader are assessed.
- Interpersonal skills are highly critiqued, as volunteering internationally is a unique and stressful environment where individuals need to have strong conflict management skills.
- Ability to present information in a concise and easy-to-relate-to manner is highly critiqued as there will often be a cultural and language barrier abroad.
- Creative ideas are a strong part of any team and will be looked upon favourably.

Final Team Selection

- Please note that all teams are selected based on several criteria throughout the 3 phases and in the best interests of SIHA, as well as all individual team members as judged by the acting 2009-2010 Executive members.
- There is absolutely no switching teams, under any circumstances.
- The purpose of SIHA is to provide a service in your assigned community. Friendship is a bonus, not the reason we chosen you for an international project. If you feel like you don't work well or get along with your group, give it some time and effort. Being a member of SIHA is to be looked at as having a job with a professional organization. If you have an issue with a co-worker, you work as a team to accomplish your job and discuss with each other ways of making your team work. Your advisors are able and more than willing to provide advice or to help facilitate a meeting and/or a discussion if you are uncomfortable approaching a team member with an issue.
- If members feel uncomfortable with their team mates, and feel like issues cannot be resolved, they will be asked to remove themselves from the SIHA organization.
- While attempts will be made to create teams of approximately equal numbers of men and women, the selection will ultimately be based on the best candidates available. However, due to safety concerns expressed in past projects, there will be a minimum of one male team member on each team.
- Teams are multidisciplinary, no faculty will be given precedence over another.