Global Health Delivery Lab
OVERVIEW FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
Spring 2011

2 November 2010

This overview of Global Health Delivery Lab presents the course design and timing for interested students and addresses some common questions. GHD Lab is a MIT Sloan project class that pairs teams of graduate students with enterprises on the front lines of health care delivery in resource-limited settings. Each project is designed to address a pressing organizational or business need identified by a host organization, and the course is built around our projects, including two weeks in March when each student team works full-time with its hosts on site.

GHD Lab is open to graduate students only. Admission is by application and interview in November 2010. The class is offered for a letter grade. Students get 9 units of academic credit plus 2 SIP credits. Enrolled students must be able to spend SIP and Spring break in the field, on site in sub-Saharan Africa or India, and attend class sessions in both H1 and H2, as well as an early December event to form teams and assign projects.

Key dates
Nov 9: Apply for admission online by 11:59 p.m.
Nov 10-24: We interview applicants in mid-November.
Nov 24: We inform students of admission decision before Thanksgiving.
Dec 1: Admitted students commit to class.
Dec 3-10: Student teams form and match to projects in early December.
December and January: Each team contacts its hosts before the start of class in February. Teams also prepare by collecting background information, as feasible.
Feb 2-March 9: Meet twice a week in H1, using class sessions for a mix of project work and learning about tools and approaches.
Feb 15: Complete required vaccinations and visa applications as needed.
March 12-27: Travel to and work on site in Africa or Asia for the entire workweeks of March 14 and 21.
March 30-April 27: H2 classes include presentations and discussions. In lieu of 4 selected class sessions in March and April, work in teams to finalize project deliverables.

Project focus and class sessions
Global Health Delivery Lab offers students the opportunity to learn, collaborate, and take action. Class sessions set the stage for teams to work side-by-side with enterprise leaders on real-world problems related to aspects of strategy, operations, and marketing in settings across sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. GHD Lab pairs faculty-mentored student teams with host enterprises on the front lines of delivering health care, who set the focus for each project. This year's projects will be in Kenya, Uganda, and India, with one or more additional sub-Saharan Africa settings possible. Partners may be clinics, hospitals, or community programs; projects may address strategy, scale and sustainability, business models, or process improvement.

For each of our 9 or so projects, we aim to deliver real contributions that could help alleviate constraints that most limit our partnering host organizations' ability to deliver health care. In exploring how efficiency, reach, and organizational sustainability may be advanced, we hope to contribute to a wider dialog about the emerging field of global health delivery and to generate practical, useful material to share with others in the field.

GHD Lab is a new, Spring-semester version built on two years of past experience. Over 100 students and close to 30 MIT Sloan student projects in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Ghana, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Malawi and Cambridge, MA, taught us about the needs and opportunities for getting health care to the people who need it most.

Host organizations benefit most from committed teams who combine practical skills and business insights and are willing to learn as much as they are willing to share. We do not need you to pay any of the major expenses (see below), but we do expect teams to work with us and the hosts to make travel and logistics arrangements.

The course is designed to make the most of the field projects. To set the stage for a successful Spring, teams are expected to initiate contact with hosts and to start discussing deliverables and collecting relevant materials before the first class session on Feb 2. This will entail at least one phone call, skype, or email exchange initiated by the student team in December or January.

Once class starts, teams of four work for six weeks at MIT, for two weeks on site in the second half of March, and then spend April back on campus. Each team is assigned a mentor who to advise students and offer suggestions and feedback. We use class sessions for spotlight discussions to focus on each project, and teams will have opportunities to use the class time for joint work. This lessens some scheduling challenges teams encounter. In H2, we continue discussions and learning. For selected April sessions, teams work together to wrap up their projects instead of class meetings.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *How do I apply?*

    To apply, please complete an online questionnaire which includes one essay. The form is at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ghd-lab-apply. Applications close on **9 November by 11:59 p.m.**. Selected applicants will be interviewed by faculty in mid-November and admission decisions made by **25 November** or earlier. Accepted students will have until **1 December** to reserve their spot. Team formation and project matches take place between **8-10 December.**

2. *Who may participate in GHD Lab? What are you looking for in applicants?*

    Enrolled MBA, LGO and other graduate students who may register for MIT Sloan classes for credit, regardless of year, are eligible. There can be no listeners or auditors.

    We are looking for dedicated students with a strong commitment to working as partners with the leaders and staff of organizations that aim to reach and serve those in most need of health care.

A medical or global health background is not required. Students taking 15.965, Global Health Delivery and Management, in the Fall are encouraged to apply as we seek to include students who have had exposure to this important background material. That said, to enable a mix of students we would like everyone who's interested to apply.

3. *Tell me more about the timing of course assignments.*

Teams get going in December and initiate contact with hosts in January, with the work starting in earnest when the Spring semester kicks off. We start quickly, with draft workplans due by the second class on Feb 7. The last day of class is April 27, and we'll use the final weeks leading up to that day to wrap up class deliverables. A syllabus overview is available from http://globalhealth.mit.edu/ghd-lab/.

4. *Who pays for the on-site team project?*

Major expenses, including point-to-point travel, accommodations, and project-related expenses during the two-week onsite project, are covered by MIT (thanks to our generous supporters and our great MIT Sloan support team) with contributions from our hosts as well.

The program and hosts pay for:

* Economy-class, round-trip airfare between Boston and your host location
* Safe, clean lodgings during your time on site.

You pay for:

* Food
* Visas
* Local travel
* Vaccinations and immunizations
* Recreation
* Communications before, during, and after your trip (phone, fax, FedEx, etc.)
* Office supplies that may be needed.

5. *Who arranges travel and accommodations?*

Students work with our team to make travel arrangements and coordinate with hosts to finalize their accommodations and logistical details.

Students also arrange their own vaccinations, immunizations, advance prescriptions, and visas. All students are covered by MIT's blanket travel assistance program in case of emergency. Register online for this service which is free of charge to enrolled students.

6. *May I bring my Significant Other on the trip?*

Unfortunately, no.

7. *How are teams formed?*

Students form their own teams, with help from us as needed. We use the early December meeting to assist your getting to know others in the class and facilitate team formation and project selection. We encourage teams to include a mix of backgrounds and interests.

8. *Is the early December meeting mandatory?*

Yes. We are planning this session with all admitted students to facilitate team formation and project selection.

9. *Can I include additional travel before or after the March 14-25 onsite work?*

You can add on some travel before or after the project as long as you don't miss any classes or commitments at MIT. In addition, you must arrive on site at least the day before you start work on the 14th.

10. *Will I receive preference in course bidding?*

There is no bidding for GHD Lab. Students will be selected by application and interview.

11. *How many credits will I receive?*

For the Academic Coursework you will receive 9 credits + 2 SIP credits for onsite work.

12. *Do I have to attend class sessions? Do I have to travel?*

Both the H1 and H2 class sessions and the two-week on site project are essential parts of the course and are required. Note that in H2, students may meet in teams or with mentors in lieu of class. There are 11 H1 class sessions (we meet every class) and 5 H2 class sessions (leaving 4 H2 class times in March and April for team project work and 4 class sessions in May free).

13. *When will we have a list of projects and hosts?*

We are working with hosts between now and December 1 to finalize projects. This means the full list of projects and hosts will not be available before you apply for GHD Lab, but we will share what we know as our projects get sorted out. You can find out about past projects at http://www.globahealth.mit.edu/home/past-projects.

14. *I expect to be interviewing or out of the country for most of January. Will I still be able to do GHD Lab?*

Yes. You'll need to work out communication with the host and your team, but you can do that electronically. Recall that teams are expected to initiate contact with host (and to start discussing deliverables and collecting relevant materials) prior to the start of class on Feb 2.

15. *What happens if I drop the class?*

We do our best to line up amazing projects and opportunities and to ensure that teams are well-balanced and matched to needs. Dropping the class is highly discouraged, and in the past has happened less than 1% of the time. Students who drop at any point receive no credit.

16. *What is the essay question on the application?*

The essay question is as follows. Please prepare around 400 words.

Tell us why you would like to take part in GHD Lab. What do you expect to learn? How will you contribute to its success?

17. *How can I learn more and stay updated on projects, locations, etc?*

Learn more: http://globalhealth.mit.edu/category/GHD Lab/.

To receive updated GHD Lab information, deadline reminders, application materials, and events, or if you are unable to attend the info session, subscribe to our email list. Visit http://mailman.mit.edu/mailman/listinfo/ghd-lab-11 or email the word "subscribe" without quotes to GHD-Lab-11-request@mit.edu.