Amsterdam Global Health

Code: M_BAGH19
Type: Optional
Period: Semester 1
Credits: 24.0
Language of instruction: English
Faculty: VUmc School of Medical Sciences

Coordinators: Mrs. dr. Petra Verdonk, mr. dr. Marcel Reinders
Examinator: Mrs. dr. Petra Verdonk, mr. dr. Marcel Reinders

Mode of delivery: Face-to-face

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Across the minor, service learning, lectures, practical courses and working groups, field projects, community engagement, symposia, and peer projects will be applied.

Level: 300

Target audience
Bachelor’s students of VUmc School of Medical Sciences and external (and international) students with a (bio)medical background.

Course content
Travelling by bike, students are going to experience health and healthcare in Amsterdam in different settings and learn about (the physician’s role in) primary and community care in an urban environment facing global health challenges, e.g. migration, demographic changes, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and inequities.
Supported by a mentor, students design and conduct their own project in collaboration with general practice, community care institutions and nonprofit-organizations such as Doctors of the World.
Health care is not merely to provide high tech solutions in hospitals to acute medical problems, but also to practice health advocacy, arrange care for people with chronic diseases as close to people’s homes as possible, and empower people to organize their lives. Future doctors will have to deal with challenges in primary and community care, e.g. quality and continuity of care, access and outreach for underserved communities, manage uncertainty and advocacy, and the shift from hospital to primary care. Furthermore, doctors should be aware of differences and inequalities and their connections to biological and social processes in men and women across e.g. (socio)cultural backgrounds, class, sexual orientation (intersectionality), and provide equitable and inclusive health care.

Global Health Amsterdam (GHA) focuses on primary and community care from a gender and diversity perspective. Based on the principles of Community Service Learning, students will conduct student-generated participatory projects in collaboration with community partners, gain meaningful learning experiences, and provide practical support to community organizations.
Learning outcomes

After the minor, students:

1. can describe and discuss global health challenges (determinants of health that transcend national borders) that impact the city of Amsterdam.
2. can identify and describe challenges in primary and community care in the city of Amsterdam, and possesses the necessary knowledge and skills to assess and respond to those challenges.
3. can describe and discuss a diversity perspective on health and health care and integrate a diversity perspective in health research and in primary and community care.
4. can design, conduct and evaluate scientific projects with a participatory research and ethics approach (stakeholder approach, dialogue, reflection).
5. possess personal and organizational skills e.g. vision and leadership skills, advocacy, negotiation skills, goalsetting, planning, project management, communication and cultural competence, reflexivity.

Assessment methods and criteria

Writing assignment, research proposal writing, oral presentation, debate, two central exams.

Recommended or required reading and other learning resources/tools

This minor is supported by a corresponding CANVAS course, which contains all of the required information of this minor including an overview of the required articles and assignments. The CANVAS course will also be used to post announcements relevant to the minor. You will automatically have access to the CANVAS course.

Prerequisites

(Bio)medical knowledge is recommended.