

How do I Identify a Site?

"I found out about my program through faculty contacts that I had made during freshman and sophomore years. As I tried to figure out my major and my minor, I met with professors who were interested in poverty and development, and they helped me expand my contact list."

"I would urge students to really search for opportunities that may not fit a perfect mold as 'global volunteer hub' – but one whose work and mission excites and inspires them – this means looking up NGOs or nonprofits and other organizations who may not even have an 'intern' tab to click on."

"Online directories and school advisor for international experiences"

"A Friend from another school provided me with contacts in a country unknown to me. Other students, both at Cal and elsewhere are often great contacts to foster."

When searching for a specific program or project, it is helpful to have a geographic area and sector of interest in mind. Students should choose the location and sector of interest by analyzing their motives for participating in a practice experience, consulting with individuals who have experience in the field and studying materials on the different geographic regions and sectors of poverty action.

Site information may be obtained from the following sources:

- **Other students at UC Berkeley-** Many student groups are involved with projects in the U.S. and abroad.
- **UC Berkeley Professors and GSRs-** are often conducting research abroad. Chances are there is a professor or GSR that is doing research in your area of interest. Ask around!
- **Alumni-** Many GPP Minor graduates are willing to provide valuable information, resources and guidance on helping students select a Practice Experience. Speak with a GPP Advisor to get in touch with alumni
- **Online Databases**
 - **GPPorgs.berkeley.edu** – contains a wide array of information and reviews of past practice experiences students in the Minor have engaged in
 - **Omprakash.org** – International organization database
 - **Bapd.org** - Bay Area Progressive Organization Directory
 - **Idealist.org** + others
- **General internet search-** search geographic locations, read recent news articles about poverty work in your region of interest.
- **The UC Berkeley Public Service Center** – Great resource for local practice experiences
- **Attend campus lectures and events focused on poverty/inequality**
- **Global Poverty and Practice Advisors-** may be able to refer a practice site to you based on your interests.
- **GPP Weekly Announcements Email** – New opportunities will be posted weekly .

Start researching possible sites EARLY!

How do I choose where to go?

"I wanted to go to a Spanish-speaking country and I wanted funding. This dictated the programs and the places I applied to"

"I knew I wanted to work with a community-oriented program in a primary care setting. That knowledge helped me narrow my search to health programs specifically. From there, I also knew I wanted to work in Sub-Saharan Africa. Once I had my issue and my region, the search became much easier"

"I picked areas of specific geographical and language interest. Then I found mentors at Cal who had contacts in those areas."

"Fight the urge to travel to an impoverished region simply because it is exciting, new, and adventurous"

"In selecting a site, consider if you want to work in Asia, Africa, Latin America, etc.; in a school or hospital; in an urban or rural area, and select a site for you which you will be both psychologically and physically prepared. Levels of supervision and responsibility vary"

Before selecting a site, students should consider the following criteria:

- **Field of Interest** (education, healthcare, microfinance, etc)
- **Poverty Action Approach** (community organizing, evaluating the effectiveness of an intervention, providing a direct service)
- **Geographic Region** (US, Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa, etc)
- **Setting** (Rural or Urban)
- **Type of Organization** (NGO, government, University-sponsored)
- **Level of Local Language Proficiency** (Consider what level of proficiency you will be able to attain by the time you begin your practice)
- **Your Skill Set** (What can you do? What will you do with those skills?)
- **Learning and Challenges** (What do you want to learn more about? What kind of challenges do you want to take on?)
- **Length of Practice** (Must be at least 240 hours/6 weeks)
- **Housing Needs/other financial resources**
- **Level of supervision desired or required**

Students are strongly encouraged to speak with advisors, faculty, and Graduate Student Instructors who can help you filter your motives and develop the criteria needed to select an appropriate site.