

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."

"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."

"Start looking for your PE organization early! Much earlier than you think is necessary. This is the one thing I would change if I could do it over again."

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 GSIs-** are often conducting research on issues of poverty and inequality. Chances are there is a professor or GSI that is doing research in your area of interest. Ask around!
- **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
 - **Volunteer.linkedin.com** – Domestic and international volunteer opportunities
 - **Volunteermatch.org** – Domestic volunteer opportunities
 - **Idealist.org** + others
- **General internet search-** search geographic locations, read recent news articles about poverty work in your region and sectors 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 or connect you with a GPP alumnus who has done work related to 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 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."

"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"

"When choosing a practice experience, make sure you critically think about your strengths and weaknesses and factor that into deciding where and what you choose for your experience. Be realistic, but also push your boundaries"

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

- **Sector/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.