

The University of Global Health Equity partnering on Roadmap 2030 for quality in health professions education



UNIVERSITY OF
Global Health
EQUITY



17th Biennial Conference
Roadmap to Enabling Quality in Tertiary Education 2030
May 29-June 1, 2023 | Astana, Kazakhstan



Sponsored by

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INTRODUCTION

The University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) is a novel and innovative higher education institution in Rwanda with a focus on training health professionals as agents of change. Started in 2015, its strategic approach embraces values of collaboration, community engagement, equity and diversity. The mission "to radically change the way health care is delivered around the world by training generations of global health professionals who strive to deliver more equitable, quality health services for all" is shaped around three sub-missions. First, educating students to become global citizens means ensuring that they can manage complexity and act as change agents in diverse health systems to improve delivery of health care. This is a challenging goal for higher education, one that goes beyond the technical competencies but is critical a complex global environment. Second, UGHE has recognized the need for a holistic and humanistic approach to educating health professionals. All programs have curricula within which social science and humanities concepts are embedded. The programs allow for a combination of different competencies that interdisciplinarity requires and is working on a deeper level to bring community engagement principles into the classroom. Third, UGHE is about social engagement and equity. The University is designed to serve the needs of Rwanda and Africa and is also of the view that access to education should be open to all. It has a deliberate policy of ensuring gender equity.



UGHE PROGRAMS

UGHE has two flagship programs for health professions training – the Masters of Science in Global Health development (MGHD) which started in 2015, ahead of the Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery/Masters in Global Health Delivery (MB BS/MGHD) dual program. The curricula for both programs are delivered to ensure immersion in the social ecology of the community as relevant health issues are addressed. The MGHD is a one-year graduate program designed to equip global health professionals with the tools and knowledge to employ the guiding principles of global health: collaboration, innovation, leadership, and equity. It serves to prepare specialized leaders with a broad base of knowledge and skills directed towards improving health of populations through effective health care delivery. The MBBS/MGHD program is a six and a half-year, bachelor's level medical degree coupled with a master's level global health degree. The curriculum integrates themes including patient care, health sciences, social determinants of health, leadership, and management.



WHITE COAT CEREMONY
DECEMBER 2022



UGHE MILESTONES

ZAIRI AWARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



ASPIRE AWARD FOR PLACE-BASED HEALTH EDUCATION



UNESCO RECOGNITION AS A MODEL INSTITUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION



PARTNERS IN IMPLEMENTING AND ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAM

In the beginning, the Government of Rwanda and private donors partnered with the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) to establish the institution. An early commitment from the Cummings Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation sponsored a 10-year framework catalyzing the University of Global Health Equity, and then later funded the first phase of implementation. The GOR donated land for the project. Partners in Health (PIH) has been the inspirational crucible fostering partnership-driven growth. Partners for strengthening the learning environment: Academic partners contributed to developing the academic programs, the learning environment and faculty development – Harvard, Stanford, California University of Science and Medicine and University of Minnesota. They and others have contributed to curriculum and adjunct and visiting faculty teaching. Private companies Med IQ LLC and Osmosis have provided technology for improving learning. Partnerships fostering Innovation and Partnerships with some of our founding partners have supported ongoing innovation. UGHE now has a Center for Innovation which engages in developing solutions for local health challenges – recently hosted an innovation hackathon with Babson College. UGHE has extended the vision and educational concept to Haiti which has recently started a similar University.

UNESCO'S ROADMAP TO 2030

The recently announced UNESCO Roadmap to 2030 follows six principles:

- Greater inclusion and promoting diversity.
- Academic freedom balanced by public accountability.
- Inquiry, critical thinking and creativity, unlocking the potential of every kind of science literacy.
- Integrity and ethics, "generating a new kind of citizenship" for the future.
- A commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, having a dynamic relationship with the community.
- Cooperation for excellence rather than competition.

These principles are already a part of the UGHE as evidenced in its mission and strategic approach to education.

In 2022, the UGHE was recognized by the Association of Medical Education of Europe for its "Inspirational Approaches to Health Professions Education" by receiving the ASPIRE-to-Excellence Award. The inspirational approach is that of place-based education which at its core is about equity. UGHE was also recognized by UNESCO as a model institution for sustainable education.