

ECHOES for Universities

A structured, supervised, international clinical placement — Pemba Island, Zanzibar

For university programme coordinators and global health offices · Version 1.0 · July 2026

What is ECHOES?

ECHOES is a structured, international clinical placement programme based on Pemba Island, Zanzibar. Students rotate through a district hospital, work alongside community health workers, and complete a defined deliverable that stays behind for the next cohort to build on. The programme runs on one principle: what you contribute continues after you leave.

Who can apply?

ECHOES is open to clinical-year students in medicine, nursing, midwifery, and dentistry from universities in Europe and the US. Students apply as individuals — the university does not need to arrange the placement, but most universities will formally approve the placement for academic credit.

Three concurrent strands

Strand	What students do	Time
A Clinical rotations	Supervised rotations through hospital departments aligned to the student's discipline and track. Departments include maternal and newborn care, paediatrics, general/internal medicine, emergency and acute care, diagnostics, ophthalmology, dermatology, and surgery.	~60%
B Community health	Structured fieldwork alongside community health workers: outreach, antenatal follow-up, NCD screening, health education, and referral tracking.	~25%
C Deliverable project	A defined, useful output scoped with the local clinical mentor — a clinical audit, a screening dataset, a referral pathway map, or bilingual patient education materials. Owned by the hospital, archived for future cohorts.	~15%

Placement lengths

4, 8, or 12 weeks — designed to slot into existing elective curricula. Structure, learning outcomes, and supervision standards are identical across all lengths. Longer placements allow students to go further within each of them.

What ECHOES provides to university coordinators

- Six core learning outcomes, plus discipline-specific objectives for each clinical track, mapped to the global health elective competencies of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) global health curriculum, and the WHO public health competency framework.
- An assessment rubric and a supervision protocol with named local clinical mentors.
- A formal certificate of completion recording rotation hours, deliverables, and mentor signatures.
- Safeguarding, consent, and ethics protocols, available on request.

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- A student liaison on the ground, available to faculty by email and telephone throughout the cohort.
 - Pre-departure orientation materials covering clinical guidelines, cultural briefing, and ethical preparation.

Ethical standards

ECHOES follows the WEIGHT framework (Working Group on Ethics Guidelines for Global Health Training) and the ethical positions of the American College of Physicians on short-term global health experiences. Students work strictly within competencies certified by their home institution. Named local clinical mentors hold absolute authority to define, limit, or withdraw clinical involvement at any time.

Contact

Email: info@echoesclinicalplacements.com

www.echoesclinicalplacements.com

ECHOES Clinical Placements ApS · Njalsgade 21F, 2nd floor · 2300 Copenhagen S · Denmark