

United Planet Health Essential Eligibility Criteria

In order to ensure that volunteers have safe and successful volunteer Quests, each volunteer must meet the Essential Eligibility Criteria below as it relates to their health and well-being.

General

- Pass a physical and mental health screening.
- Require full disclosure of health needs and conditions. Omitting or falsifying information on the Health Information Form and Release is grounds for program termination.

Physical

- Be able to manage all personal care and mobility independently, or with the assistance of a companion who accompanies the participant.
- Independently perceive, understand, and follow directions and instructions given by others.
- Be able to lift and carry any and all of their belongings at all times.

Mental

- No acute psychiatric diagnosis or episode, or psychiatric hospitalization within the past year.
- No new psychotropic medications within six months of departure for host country.
- No major changes of existing psychotropic medication(s) including sudden stoppage, within three months of departure for host country.
- Relative stability (verified by the treating clinician) over the last year, if a history of chronic depression, anxiety, or other psychological or behavioral diagnoses exists. Some conditions may not be allowed if beyond what our staff and host communities can reasonably handle.
- Be able to independently identify and recognize hazards and risk posed by other volunteers, which include, but are not limited to, fatigue, state of mind, and actions that may influence judgment and decision-making.
- If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage by self-medicating without assistance from program instructor.
- Be able to independently identify and recognize potential hazards, which may include, but are not limited to, street traffic, utilizing public and private transportation during free time, hazards related to alcohol consumption during free time, and other aspects of international travel, loose and unstable surfaces; rugged, steep and uneven terrain; moving water (fast or slow) such as rivers, creeks, surf, or tides; traffic and pedestrian hazards.

Other

- Be qualified or have relevant training to participate in a Global Health Quest if intending to provide patient care. Volunteers will be required to submit certification as verification of their qualifications.
- Possess a willingness to learn and exchange.
- Have the maturity and self-awareness to see how their behavior may be perceived by others and ability to act appropriately in differing contexts.
- Work effectively as a member of a team or independently despite potentially stressful and difficult conditions.
- No verbal or physical inappropriate behavior towards others is tolerated for any reason.
- Effectively communicate ideas and concerns on an individual and group level.

In keeping with our guiding principles, United Planet will make every attempt to maintain the inclusivity of our programs. In this regard, we will strive to accommodate participants with unique needs. However, we do recognize that certain project sites possess inherent logistical concerns which make accommodating some unique needs more difficult. In these cases, logistical challenges will be communicated to the participant and we will work collaboratively with the participant, as well as the in-country staff, to ensure the safety of the participant. This said, certain host projects may be unavailable to participants require particular accommodations. United Planet will determine the viability of a given program for participants on a case-by-case basis in consultation with said volunteer, their physician, and our in-country staff - any of whom may determine whether a program is compatible for the participant.

Please note that United Planet reserves the right to decline applicants whom we believe are not a good fit for the program experience. We are happy to speak with any potential volunteer in more detail to determine if a United Planet Volunteer Quest will be a great fit for you. Please contact us at quest@unitedplanet.org or 617-267-7763, Monday through Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm EST.