



PO Box 918  
Goshen, IN 46527-0918  
Phone: 1-888-406-3643  
Email: [info@mennohealth.org](mailto:info@mennohealth.org)  
Web: [www.mennohealth.org](http://www.mennohealth.org)

## STUDENT ELECTIVE TERM (SET) For Graduate Students in Healthcare Disciplines

**Menonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF)** encourages persons studying for healthcare professions at the master's level and above to learn and serve in underserved areas, especially cross-cultural mission/service settings in developing countries. To further this goal, MHF provides educational grant funding for students to travel for a **Student Elective Term (SET)**.

Most graduate level programs have an elective term during their final year of study. This is an opportunity for students to enrich their education, to make a meaningful contribution in the delivery of healthcare in a cross-cultural setting, and to engage in Christian service and witness through their chosen profession.

**Program:** The SET program draws upon the considerable experience and expertise of MHF members who have lived and worked in developing countries and underserved communities. The grant is intended to provide for travel and living expenses beyond the normal educational expenses. MHF also helps with facilitation of placements in cooperation with various Christian agencies.

SET students will be engaged in educational and service activities in the context of a cross-cultural, underserved environment. Students will be supervised on site by a qualified preceptor or clinical instructor. By coordinating this opportunity with the student's educational program and institution, students can usually get approval and credit for the elective. Some clinical instructors have advanced training and many years of experience in treating conditions not usually found in typical North American settings. This offers the student both an exposure to service and mission work in a developing country as well as a wider range of conditions than might typically surface in the rest of their education.

**Administration:** Students are responsible to work with their educational institution, mission and placement agencies, and healthcare institutions to find an appropriate placement site. The MHF office may assist in finding an MHF member who has served overseas and can be helpful for placement ideas and contact information. However, MHF is only a facilitator for these arrangements. The placement program and/or the healthcare facility itself makes the official assignment to the placement setting.

**Benefits:** SET gives students an opportunity to learn and serve in a cross-cultural setting and thus reflect on their own calling as a Christian healthcare professional. One student in an evaluation of his experience said, "My experience has added a much-needed perspective to my education." Another said, "I have gained self-confidence, calmness, common sense, and motivation..." Testimonies like these inspire members of MHF to support this program.

**Process:** Applications are accepted starting sometime in January for the academic year that begins the following August or September. Applications are due by May 15<sup>th</sup> and are then reviewed by a process established by the MHF Board of Directors. Up to five grants of up to \$2,000 are awarded by June 15. Funding is contingent upon students subsequently completing all the necessary preparations and submitting a letter of acceptance from the placement institution. Students will be asked to submit a budget of travel and living expenses and a receipt from a major expense, typically an airline ticket. Up to \$1750 is then released directly to the student with the remaining \$250 paid following completion of the assignment and a short report to the MHF Office.