

UF connections with Haiti



Haiti is situated in the Caribbean. Its capital city is Port-au-Prince. The US State Department estimates its total population at 10,485,800. Information about travelling to Haiti is on the [Department of State](#) website. The [Centers of Disease Control and Prevention](#) also has useful travel information.

University of Florida’s footprints in Haiti have expanded over recent years. UF has held onto valuable connections in Haiti by means of providing educational and research experiences.

Visiting Students, Scholars & Researchers

In the 2013-2014 academic session, UF hosted 1 exchange visiting student and 5 international students from Haiti.

Visiting Students, Scholars, and Researchers				
Undergraduate	Graduate	Non-degree	OPT	Exchange Visitors
3	2	0	0	1

UF Students in Haiti

In the 2013-2014 academic school year, 10 students from UF gained academic credit by studying abroad in Haiti. Some of them taught in different Haitian schools and others participated in research. There were no UF sponsored programs in 2014-2015.

Internships/Mission

UF offers students the opportunity to intern, perform research and volunteer in Haiti through different UF programs or non-UF partners.

Internships/Mission Programs			
Academic Unit at UF	Destination Institution or Program Name	Focus of program	Location
Medicine	Project Haiti	Mission Trip	Ayiti Cheri

Public Health and Health Professions	Assessment of Contaminants in Haitian Waterways	Internship	Gressier
Business	Entrepreneurship and Empowerment	Internship	Ayiti
Journalism & Communications	Projects for Haiti	Missions	Cap-Haitian, Saint Marc

Cooperative Agreements

There are currently no Reciprocal Agreements with institutions in Haiti. The full list of active Cooperative Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding with Haitian institutions are listed below:

Cooperative Agreements		
Academic Unit at UF	Institution Name	Focus
Business administration	Center for Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Haiti	Internship
Public Health and Health Professions	Community Coalition for Haiti	Research
Public Health and Health Professions	L'Universite d'État d'Haiti	Research
Health and Human Performance	Ministry of Health and Population	Training
Public Health and Health Professions	National Public Health Laboratory, Haiti	Research
Health and Human Performance	Universite and Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti	

Highlights

- **Project Haiti**

Since 1996, students, faculty and staff of the UF College of Medicine and Shands Hospital have been participating in the Project Haiti Mission Trip in which healthcare is provided to people in underserved areas of Haiti. This trip serves as a great opportunity for service-learning, balancing education and service for the students. Project Haiti is a (3) non-profit organization and receives funding from UF, fundraising events, auctions and painting sales throughout the year to reach their fund goals. Pulled from the Project Haiti website:

<http://projecthaiti.med.ufl.edu/>

- **Feed the Future West Haiti**

The UF/IFAS has collaborated with UC- Davis, N. C State and the University of Hawaii to develop international partnerships for research and innovation in agriculture and nutrition on fruits and vegetables to help improve the lives of people in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Central America. UF's Feed the Future is focused in Haiti with Dr. Florence Sergile as the coordinator. Pulled from the IFAS-Global website:

<http://global.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/ftf/index.html>

- **Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in Haiti**

The Warrington College of Business' Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) offers multiple ways that students can develop skills in entrepreneurship while at UF. Studying abroad in Haiti is one of the ways. Students spend six weeks taking online courses and planning for the trip and then spend their Spring break in Haiti where they build entrepreneurship skills while helping local entrepreneurs in rural areas. The CEI is in charge of the funding for the program. Pulled from the College of Business website:

<http://warrington.ufl.edu/centers/cei/engagement/haiti/>

- **Assessment of Contaminants in Haitian Waterways**

Since 2009, about 3 Environmental & Global Health (EGH) Masters of Public Health students spend part of their internship in Gressier, Haiti each year. In 2015, the EGH MPH students spent part of their internship collecting water samples from wells, rivers and streams to determine if the waters contained contaminants with hormonal activity, which pose potential health risks. They have also partnered with the FISH ministries, which has been working to increase the access to clean water in Haitian communities for over 20 years. Pulled from the Department of Environmental & Global Health website: <http://egh.php.ufl.edu/news-and-events/activities-abroad/haiti/>

- **[Haiti Research Lab](#)**

Haiti Research Lab is one of the most notable achievements of UF's engagement with Haiti. Established in 2011 by the University of Florida Emerging Pathogens Institute (EPI), the Haiti Research Lab facility focuses on research in ecology, epidemiology, genetics and genomics of microbial pathogens responsible for cholera and chronic diarrheal illness and works to prevent or contain re-emerging diseases. The research lab partners with the Christianville Foundation Inc. in Gressier, Haiti to provide services to schools and the community. This lab is funded through the College of Medicine, EPI, CDC Haiti and Ministry of Health.

Research Projects

The Office of Research online database indicated the following funded projects with Haiti in the project title:

Funded research projects						
Principal Investigator (PI)	PI department	Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)	Co-PI department	Project title	Funding agency/ Sponsor	Project funding
Benjamin Hebblethwaite	Languages, Lit & Cultures	Laurie Nancy Taylor	Smathers Libraries	Archive Of Haitian Religion And Culture	National Foundation On Arts & Humanities	\$240,804

John Glenn Morris	Emerging Pathogens Institute	Afsar Ali Ira Longini Judith Johnson; Marco Salemi Mattia Prosperi	Environmental & Global Health Biostatistics Pathology & Laboratory Med Epidemiology	Cholera Transmission In Gressier Region, Haiti	National Institutes Of Health	\$2,724,560
Funded research projects (cont.)						
Principal Investigator (PI)	PI department	Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)	Co-PI department	Project title	Funding agency/Sponsor	Project funding
Valery Beau De Rochars	Health Services Research			Personal Services Contract For Assistance With Ministries Of health In Haiti & Dominican Republic	Carter Center	\$28,800
Walter Bowen	IFAS-Global	David Diehl; Marilyn (Mickie) Swisher	Family, Youth and Community Sciences	Support to Agricultural Research and Development program (SARDP)	US Agency for International Development	\$5,500,000

Key Connections

- [Haiti Working Group](#)
- [Haiti Research Lab](#) - See also: <http://epi.ufl.edu/haiti/about/christianville-foundation/>
- [Club Creole](#)
- [Project Haiti](#)
- [A Better Tomorrow for Haiti](#)

Adding information to this brief

If you have or are aware of a project, program, or other activity that UF has in this country that has not been included in this brief, email ogre@ufic.ufl.edu.