

University of Utah
Division of Plastic Surgery
Foreign Surgical Mission Travel Policy

Residents are encouraged to attend a surgical mission trip during their last 3 years of plastic surgery training. Senior residents will be given priority to participate. If the senior resident is unable to go or has previously gone, then the next senior resident will be eligible. Residents may attend a trip in conjunction with a University of Utah faculty member or through a separate established program (ie. Op Smile).

We have two established trips through the Division of Plastic Surgery. One trip to Guatemala, under the direction of the craniofacial team, is focused on pediatric disorders, primarily cleft lip and palate. The second trip to Ghana, under the direction of Dr. Brad Rockwell, is focused on hand and trauma care in an underserved region. Residents also have access to the University of Utah Center for Global Surgery who can assist in identifying trips to other regions.

Residents will be allowed to have 7 days for travel on a surgical mission trip during their final 3 years. If a resident requires any additional time for the trip or if a resident plans to attend more than one 7 day trip, he/she will be required to use vacation time. The fees for the trip (travel, food/lodging) will come from either division funds (Ghana and Guatemala), the faculty member with whom they are traveling, the resident, or the organization they are traveling with.