

Centre for International Health Guidelines

=====

(Established by the University of Bergen 18.12.1991, revised by the Faculty of Medicine 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2025)

The Centre for International Health (CIH) is an inter-disciplinary and inter-Faculty Centre at the University of Bergen (UiB). It is renowned for its research and competency within Global Health both nationally and internationally. Since its establishment in 1988, CIH has been anchored in UiB's academic strategy pertaining to global and developmental research.

1 Centre Vision

To provide excellent global health research and training contributing to improved health and equity.

2 Centre Goal

At UiB, CIH will both spearhead and provide a meeting point for health research, researcher training and teaching that is particularly relevant for populations in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). The Centre will facilitate and coordinate activities that UiB and/or the faculties deem appropriate.

3 Centre Tasks

CIH will work in partnerships with research institutions in LMICs, and aims to:

- Coordinate and conduct high quality, relevant and innovative global health research
- Teach, supervise, and facilitate learning in global health
- Disseminate research and engage in policy discussions on pertinent global health issues

4 Centre's Organisational Placement, Management and Leadership

Organisationally, CIH is placed at the Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care (IGS) at the Faculty of Medicine (MED).

CIH will have:

- An appointed leader (title: Centre Leader) and a Deputy Leader. The Centre Leader is appointed by the Faculty Board. The Centre Leader nominates a candidate for Deputy Leader, who is appointed by the Department Leader.
- A Steering Committee
- A Strategic Academic Council
- Scientific personnel from various university units who may be placed either at CIH or at their own unit
- Administrative personnel

Centre Leader

CIH is led by a Centre Leader who has the academic and administrative responsibility for the Centre activity, including both the Centre's strategic development and its day-to-day leadership.

The Centre Leader has the daily personnel responsibility for the scientific staff whose primary position is physically placed at CIH. The formal employer responsibility for all CIH employees lies with their respective Department leaders (see point 5, Centre staffing). The Centre Leader reports to Department leader at IGS that hold responsibility for the economy and project portfolio at the centre. Academically and strategically, the Centre Leader reports to the Centre's Steering Committee.

Steering Committee

CIH will have a Steering Committee which consists of the Department Leaders and the Dean from the Faculty of Medicine. When necessary, representatives from other Faculties or other collaborating institutions may be appointed to the Steering Committee. Both the Steering Committee and its Leader are appointed by the Faculty Board. One of the Department Leaders chair the committee. The IGS Department Leader should not chair. CIH's Centre Leader is responsible for preparing the agenda for the Steering Committee meetings and for ensuring that minutes are taken and distributed.

Steering Committee tasks:

- Provide support and motivation to ensure that CIH carries out its responsibilities as outlined above.
- Undertake decisions and provide advice that will ensure that CIH is able to fulfil its responsibilities as coordinator and initiative-taker in both research and teaching within health research that is particularly relevant for the underprivileged populations of the world.
- Discuss strategies for CIH's research and teaching activity, plans, main questions relating to CIH's operation and sphere of activity, including the collaboration between CIH and other units.
- Supervise the progression of CIH's academic development and ensure that the activity involving other research units is acceptable.
- Discuss CIH's response to official research-, research training-, and education reports.
- Disseminate information about relevant projects at MED/UiB that naturally fall under CIH's activity portfolio, as well as ensuring that these be anchored and profiled at CIH.
- Monitor CIH's economic situation and ensure responsible Centre operation.
- Discuss CIH's suggestions relating to the next year's budget.
- Propose a Leader for the Education Programme Committee (PU) in International Health.

The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year: in May, to be able to make suggestions relating to the next year's budget; and in November, to be able to respond to any official research-, research training-, and education reports.

Strategic Academic Council

CIH's Strategic Academic Council will have 5 members who are appointed by MED. Four members will be selected from academic institutions outside UiB, minimum 2 of these from outside Norway. The fifth member will come from CIH. The Centre Leader is responsible for summoning the Council members as well as for chairing the meetings. Strategic Academic Council meetings will be held annually and, if possible, at the same time or parallel to one of the Steering Committee meetings.

A summary of the Strategic Academic Council's discussions will be made available to the Steering Committee. In addition, Steering Committee members may participate as observers in Strategic Academic Council meetings.

Strategic Academic Council Tasks

The Strategic Academic Council plays an advisory role for CIH in issues that concern the fundamental aspects of the Centre's academic strategy and activity, particularly those emphasizing strengthening the institutional network supporting CIH.

The Strategic Academic Council will consider and provide feedback on issues that involve:

- Long-term plans and implementation of the Centre's academic activity (research, researcher training, other educational activities at CIH, as well as communication activities)

- Strategic network building

5. Centre staffing

CIH is staffed by

- Scientific personnel whose contracts state that they work at CIH in a given position percent, and/or who have an agreement stating they will be physically located at CIH
- Scientific personnel who are physically based at other units, but who have formally based their projects at CIH, or who engage in teaching or supervision at CIH, or who participate in the Research School
- Administrative personnel who are based at CIH and/or have an agreement stating they will be physically located at CIH

CIH's administrative personnel work together with the administrative personnel at the Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care (IGS). The Administrative Leader at IGS is formally responsible for all the administrative personnel, while the Centre Leader has the day-to-day responsibility for those working at CIH. CIH benefits from IGS' administrative services. The IGS Administrative Leader coordinates the Centre's administrative tasks together with the Centre Leader.

6. Evaluation

These Guidelines will be evaluated by the Centre Leader and the Steering Committee every 2 years. The evaluation will be presented to the Strategic Academic Council.