



PROJECT PEANUT BUTTER

Saving Futures Saving Lives

Organization Name:

Project Peanut Butter

Organization Background:

Project Peanut Butter (PPB) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the treatment of severe acute malnutrition through the production and distribution of effective, locally made ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF). PPB provides critical nutritional and medical support to children in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, currently operating in Malawi, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, and Ghana.

In Sierra Leone, PPB is a registered NGO with a production facility in Freetown and feeding programs primarily in Pujehun District and surrounding areas. PPB was founded in 2004 by Dr. Mark Manary, who continues to serve as CEO. The organization began producing RUTF in Malawi and expanded to Sierra Leone in 2008 with the opening of a local factory. Since 2016, PPB has led humanitarian aid and research initiatives in Pujehun, focused on improving the treatment and prevention of malnutrition.

Currently in Sierra Leone, PPB is implementing two projects: one focused on treating malnourished children (ages 6 months to 5 years), and another supporting pregnant women. Both projects are ongoing, with research needs that evolve as studies progress. At present, the children's project in Pujehun is launching a new study and has the greatest need for volunteer support.

Learn more at: www.projectpeanutbutter.org

Project Title

Clinic Team Volunteer

Project Description:

Project Description

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting Project Peanut Butter's mission to treat malnourished children and pregnant women in Sierra Leone. This practicum/applied experience offers hands-on engagement in both clinical care and research, where accuracy and commitment are essential to ensuring high-quality treatment and data collection.

Primary Responsibilities

During Clinic

- Serve as a member of the field research team, directly participating in clinic activities.

- Conduct anthropometric measurements following established protocols.
- Assist local staff with identifying, screening, and enrolling study participants.
- Support laboratory tasks and data collection in accordance with study procedures.

After Clinic

- Contribute to data entry, cleaning, and quality control.
- Organize and maintain study records, including consent forms and clinic cards.
- Assist with preparation for upcoming clinic days (e.g., assembling study card packets, packaging medications, restocking supplies).
- Monitor inventory of study gifts, supplies, and other necessities, and report shortages to the coordinator.

Additional Opportunities

Depending on project needs and individual interests, volunteers may take on expanded responsibilities such as:

- Coordinating specific field activities.
- Conducting data analysis and management.
- Preparing publication-quality outputs, including tables, figures, and graphs for manuscripts and grants.

Placement and Flexibility

While we aim to consider volunteer interests, placement is ultimately determined by project needs. Volunteers should be prepared to work diligently, prioritize patient care and research integrity, and contribute wherever they are most needed.

Project keywords (check all that apply).

☒ **Health Disparities**

☐ Public Health Preparedness

☒ **Collaborations with Community**

☒ **Collaborations with University**

☐ Community health service

☐ Physical Activity

☐ Substance Abuse

☐ Mental Health

☒ **Access to care**

☒ **Nutrition**

☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health

☐ Environmental Health

☒ **Maternal/Infant Health**

☐ Tobacco Use

☐ Injury/Violence Prevention

☐ Immunization

☐ Infectious Disease

☐ Oral Health

☐ Evaluation

☐ Policy Development

☐ Program Planning

☐ Data Analysis

☒ **Other: Global Health, Rural Health, Research**

When:

☒ Fall Semester

☒ Spring Semester

☒ Summer Term

☒ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: 7435 Flora Avenue Maplewood, MO 63143

Address where Student will work (if different from above): Field site in Sierra Leone: 8 District Council Road, Pujehun, Sierra Leone

☐ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

This practicum is best suited for students with a strong interest in global health, nutrition, and field-based research. Successful candidates will be:

- **Adaptable and resilient**, willing to live in a rural West African setting with rustic conditions (limited access to familiar foods, no air conditioning, and no hot running water).
- **Culturally respectful and open-minded**, with a genuine interest in learning from and working alongside local staff and community members.
- **Dedicated and reliable**, able to prioritize the integrity of the study and the well-being of participants, even when tasks are repetitive or routine.
- **Collaborative**, eager to contribute as part of a diverse, multidisciplinary team.

Level of Expertise Needed:

Project Peanut Butter has hosted both undergraduate public health students and MPH students as volunteers to fulfill their academic requirements. Because our work involves a wide range of clinical, research, and programmatic activities, we are able to tailor responsibilities to a student's level of training and interests.

- **Undergraduate students** can gain valuable practice-based experience by applying classroom learning in direct service and field research activities, such as anthropometric measurement, screening and enrollment, and data entry.
- **Graduate (MPH) students** can take on more advanced responsibilities, including data analysis, monitoring and evaluation, development of program tools, or preparation of deliverables such as reports or training materials that directly support our ongoing projects.

We are committed to working with each student to ensure the experience both supports their academic goals and contributes meaningfully to our mission.

☒ MPH

☒ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

The primary supervisor will be **Kaitlyn Johnke, MPH, MA**, Field Coordinator with Project Peanut Butter in Sierra Leone. She holds a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in Family and Global Health from the University of Arizona, as well as a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies. Ms. Johnke has extensive experience living

and working in West Africa and Latin America, with a focus on maternal and child health, nutrition, and field-based public health research.

Project Peanut Butter is also affiliated with Washington University in St. Louis, where the principal investigators — **Dr. Mark Manary** and **Dr. Kevin Stephenson** — are based. These PIs are available to provide remote instruction and guidance. In some cases, students may collaborate directly with a PI on a specific project, depending on project needs and student interests.

Compensation/Benefits/Professional Development

☐ **Stipend**

- **Short-term volunteers** (less than 6 months) receive a weekly stipend of **\$120**, which is sufficient to cover living expenses in rural Sierra Leone.
- **Long-term volunteers** (6 months or more) receive a monthly stipend of **\$1,000**, and the cost of air travel is covered. Long-term volunteers may also have the opportunity to take on higher-responsibility roles or tasks, depending on project needs.

☐ **Housing**

- All volunteers are provided with a private room and shared kitchen, bathroom, and common spaces. On rare occasions for short periods, volunteers may need to share a room with another volunteer.

☐ **Volunteer Expenses**

- Short-term volunteers are expected to pay for their own airfare
- All volunteers are responsible for the cost of their visa (~\$100), travel-related medications and health expenses, ferry transportation to and from Freetown (~\$90 round trip), and airport security/taxes (~\$50 round trip).
- Project Peanut Butter provides guidance and support for logistics related to travel and arrival.

☐ **Professional Development**

- Volunteers gain hands-on experience in global health, nutrition, and field research, including patient care, data collection and analysis, program implementation, and collaborative work with local and international staff.
- Long-term volunteers may have additional opportunities for leadership, project coordination, and producing deliverables such as reports, data visualizations, and training materials.

Application Contact Information

Students can apply by reaching out to Christa Lolley at lolley@wustl.edu with a CV and cover letter, as well as filling out this application (attached).