



IMPERIAL



WHO Collaborating Centre
Public Health Education and Training



2025 WHO HEADQUARTERS, GENEVA TRIP REPORT

Master Students educational trip to WHO
Headquarters, Geneva

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www.imperialwhocc.org



BACKGROUND



A core component of strengthening global public health systems lies in investing in the next generation of public and global health leaders. Since its establishment in 2007, the WHO Collaborating Centre at Imperial College London has remained strongly committed to student engagement and capacity building.

This commitment has been realised through teaching contributions, dissemination of professional opportunities, course development, and, most notably, the organisation of an annual educational visit to the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva.

Running continuously since 2010, the trip has evolved in response to structured student feedback and growing demand. Each year, refinements are introduced to enhance learning relevance, interaction, and exposure to real-world global health governance. Student testimonials consistently highlight the visit as a formative professional experience, reinforcing the Centre's commitment to sustaining and strengthening this initiative.

The three-day educational visit for Master's students in Public Health and Global Health took place from 25-27 June 2025.

The overarching aim was to provide experiential learning, deepen understanding of WHO's mandate and operations, and expose students to contemporary global health challenges through direct engagement with WHO and partner institution experts.

II. KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The visit was designed to enable students to:

- Understand WHO's mandate, governance structures, and global leadership role.
- Explore international coordination mechanisms, including health emergencies and pandemic preparedness.
- Engage with technical priority areas such as Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Non - communicable Diseases (NCDs), antimicrobial resistance (AMR), neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), digital health, and AI governance.
- Examine vaccine equity, conflict-affected health systems, and global health diplomacy.
- Translate academic learning into applied, real-world global health contexts.
- Explore career pathways within multilateral and global health institutions.
- Strengthen professional confidence through direct engagement with WHO experts.

III. PROGRAMME

DAY 1 — 25 JUNE 2025 WHO HEADQUARTERS



09:30–10:15

Health Global Governance: Current Shifts

- Margaret Harris

10:30–11:15

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- Nick Banatvala

11:15–11:45

Break

11:45–12:30

Digital health and A.I. governance

- Sameer Pujari

12:30–14:00

Lunch

14:15–15:00

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- Hatim Sati

15:15–16:00

Polio Eradication: Current Outbreak in Gaza

- Oliver Rosenbauer



GRATEFUL FOR THE INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA FOR THREE INSPIRING DAYS.

III. PROGRAMME

DAY 2 — 26 JUNE 2025 WHO HEADQUARTERS



09:15-10:00

Health Impact of Climate Change

- Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum

10:15-11:00

Where do young people get contraceptives from?

- Venkatram Chandra-Mouli and Asante Kamuyango

11:00-11:30

Break

11:30-12:15

Global Health Workforce (incl. mental health crisis post-pandemic)

- Meredith Fendt-Newlin and Tapas Nair

12:15-13:45

Lunch

14:00-15:00

Health Emergencies (incl. violence against health professionals in conflict)

- Abdi Muhamad

15:15-16:00

Strengthening health systems to achieve the WHO 2030 NTD

Roadmap goals

- Albis Gabrielli and Bernadette Abela

19:30 at Restaurant Edelweiss



"WHO TRIP IS A LIFE EXPERIENCE."

III. PROGRAMME



DAY 3 — 27 JUNE 2025

09:20-10:15
Youth Engagement and Initiatives
Dorine van der Wal

10:25-11:15
WFUNA- World Federation of
United Nations Associations
Finn Carlson

11:15-13:45
Lunch & Travel to Environment
House

13:45
Arrival at Environment House

14:00-14:45
Geneva Environment Network &
International Environmental Governance
Jonas Huyghebaert
Diana RIZZOLIO
Jonas HUYGHEBAERT
Marine DUDOGNON
UNEP

15:05 - 16:00
Chemicals and Health Risks
Mihaela Claudia PAUN

16:15-17:00
UNEP's Activities on Air Quality in
Central Asia in 2024-2025
Tomas MARQUES

“

“A RARE, BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK INTO HOW GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS OPERATE.”

IV. OVERALL SUMMARY

Student feedback was collected using structured, anonymous questionnaires administered at the end of each programme day. The evaluation assessed satisfaction with knowledge gained, session quality, achievement of learning outcomes, and overall experience. Quantitative ratings were complemented by qualitative reflections, and personal inputs from students through their LinkedIn pages, some of which are included here.



Dr. Ankita Misra · 1st
MPH Candidate, Imperial College London | Post-graduate Academic Represen...
18h · 🌐

A dream come true.

June 2025 was one for the books—I had the incredible privilege of visiting the [World Health Organization](#) HQ in Geneva, an institution I've long admired since my Model UN days, haha! Thanks to [Imperial College London](#) School of Public Health and the WHOCC [Salman Rawaf](#) [Ela Augustyniak](#) [Rachel Barker](#) [Celine Tabche](#), [FHEA](#), [MSc](#), [ANtr](#), I joined my brilliant peers for an immersive trip to the heart of global health governance.

Day 1 left me with powerful insights—here are a few that stayed with me:

Dr. [Margaret Harris](#) emphasized the importance of the newly signed WHO Pandemic Agreement—a historic move towards equitable access and stronger global coordination. She also shared her experiences during the 2018 Ebola outbreak in DRC-Kivu, highlighting how WHO's Regional Office structure enables context-specific, localised responses in complex emergencies.

Dr. [Nick Banatvala](#) posed an evocative question: "Whose responsibility is health?"—a question that sparked passionate debate. One metaphor in particular stayed with me (and one I hope to borrow!): healthy living often means walking uphill—both literally and metaphorically. The role of health systems should be to level the slope, not steepen it. His book, *Noncommunicable Diseases: A Compendium*, is officially my Read of the Week.

Dr. [Hatim Sati](#) took us back to our med school pharmacology days with a striking fact: no new class of antibiotics has been developed since 1983. Tackling Anti-Microbial Resistance demands stewardship, stronger regulations, and cultural shifts. Over-prescription and OTC access remain major challenges, especially in LMICs. This is vital, often underappreciated work, and I'm truly grateful to those leading the charge.

One of my favourite phrases of the day came from [Oliver Rosenbauer](#), who called Polio Eradication experts the "Indiana Joneses of Epidemiology"—fighting a battle that often goes unseen. When I shared experiences from rural clinical postings in Maharashtra, and the vital

One of my favourite phrases of the day came from [Oliver Rosenbauer](#), who called Polio Eradication experts the "Indiana Joneses of Epidemiology"—fighting a battle that often goes unseen.

When I shared experiences from rural clinical postings in Maharashtra, and the vital role of PHC nurses, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi staff, Oliver shared the remarkable story of India's last polio reservoir in the Kosi River Basin. A major milestone—but the fight continues. Vaccine hesitancy, workforce gaps, and infrastructure challenges remain.

The Digital Age: I appreciated hearing how the WHO both champions AI Application on the frontlines (Digital Pathology), and addresses AI ethics & governance through efforts like the AI Casebook—thank you [Sameer Pujari](#)!

My Greatest Takeaway? We can't build global health systems from the top down. Thank you [Rachel Barker](#) for reminding us: real change starts with communities. Health isn't just technical—it's social, political, and deeply human.

★ Watch this space! Can't wait to share reflections from Day 2. Here's to continued growth, shared knowledge, and collective action for global health!

[#WHO](#) [#GlobalHealth](#) [#PublicHealth](#) [#HealthEquity](#) [#NCDs](#) [#PolioEradication](#)
[#AMR](#) [#PandemicPreparedness](#) [#DigitalHealth](#) [#SDGs](#) [#Geneva](#)





Yuxing Heather Liu · 2nd
Strategy & Operation Lead @ Global Spark | Master of Public ...
14h · 🌐

Connect ...

Grateful for the incredible opportunity to visit the **World Health Organization** headquarters in Geneva for three inspiring days.

During the visit, I had the chance to attend thought-provoking sessions on a wide range of global health topics, including Global Health Governance, Polio Eradication, Emergency Outbreak Response, Climate Change, Sexual Health, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Digital Health, and more—delivered by some of the most dedicated public health experts in the field.

At a time when global health faces significant challenges, it's truly inspiring to witness the continued efforts of organizations like WHO in delivering critical health services worldwide. As a public health student, this experience has been both eye-opening and deeply motivating.

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful team of staff and interns at the **WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training, Imperial College London** for making this enriching experience possible! **Rachel Barker Ela Augustyniak Prof Salman Rawaf Helene Davis Mona Kuroiwa Emmanuel Urama**



Ishani Sharma · 2nd
WHOCC Intern | Medical Student at Imperial College London | ...
5d · 🌐

Connect ...

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting the **World Health Organization** and **UN Environment Programme** - a trip which I was incredibly excited about! This was a unique opportunity to learn from experts on a variety of fields, and discuss careers and subject areas in depth in my role as a WHOCC Intern.

I thought I'd share some of my highlights from this experience!

In such a critical period of change, the extensive work of **Dorine van der Wal** in championing youth voices and perspectives is not only crucial, but reassuring. As a young person, it felt empowering to know there is such a strong youth advocate, particularly in a system with so many moving parts!

Insights into field experience with **Margaret Harris** were invaluable - this trip came in quick succession after my medical elective based in Uganda (more to come on this soon!). What struck me was that, both at a policy making level at HQ, and at a community & field level that I experienced in Kampala, the drive for change and health improvement is centred around compassion, collaboration, innovation, and the importance and inherent diversity of lived experience.

In the current global health climate, the insightful discussion and session with **Oliver Rosenbauer** on medical communications and polio eradication was a poignant reminder of the impact that unified and concentrated efforts can have on tackling major health threats, and the importance of quality health information and tackling misinformation.

As an incoming F1 doctor in the UK, I was particularly intrigued by a session given by **Nick Banatvala** on NCDs. It was eye-opening to hear on health from a governance perspective, an area which I'd like to understand better moving forward.

Delving into challenges, inequality, and inequity surrounding sexual health and contraception with **Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli & Dr Asantesana Kamuyango** was another highlight for me. It felt refreshing to be a part of such open and frank conversation, and inspiring to see such drive and advocacy - reflections I will take with me as I begin work in August.



Ria Risdianti · 2nd
FISQua | MPH (Cand.) at Imperial College London | LPDP Scho...
1w · Edited · 🌐

Connect ...

8 Key Takeaways from Day 1 at **World Health Organization** 🌐

Still processing everything we learned and feeling deeply grateful.

★ Topics we explored:

- Global health governance & equity
- NCDs as the world's leading – and preventable – burden
- The rise of AI in health, and the urgent need for governance
- Antimicrobial resistance: the slow pandemic already here
- Polio: geopolitics vs. science in eradication efforts

Beyond the sessions, I had the chance to speak with **World Health Organization HQ Interns, Eze Adaeze, MPH, MSc Vet epi. Taudgirdas Persaud** and others working across departments. Their perspectives were incredibly helpful, especially in showing how adaptable, collaborative, and grounded WHO's day-to-day work really is. The experience felt less like observing, and more like stepping into the ecosystem.

This visit wouldn't have been possible without the support of so many people:

🙌 Huge thanks to

- The **WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training, Imperial College London**
- Prof. **Salman Rawaf, Ela Augustyniak, Rachel Barker, Celine Tabche, FHEA, MSc, ANtr, Mona Kuroiwa, Helene Davis, Emmanuel Urama** — for the guidance, encouragement, and support
- WHO speakers: **Margaret Harris, Nick Banatvala, Sameer Pujari, Hatim Sati, and Oliver Rosenbauer** — thank you for sharing your work
- And to **Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan** for funding my postgraduate studies

This is exactly the kind of exposure I hoped for when I chose **Imperial College London**. As I approach graduation, I aspire to contribute to global health solutions that are rooted in equity, guided by evidence, and driven by empathy.

More to come from Geneva! 🇨🇭

with me as I begin work in August.

Needless to say, these are only snippets from a memorable and thought-provoking trip - my heartfelt thanks go to all the speakers who took the time to teach us, and to the WHO and UNEP interns **Taudgirdas Persaud Alice Bruneau Eze Adaeze, MPH, MSc Vet epi. Marine Dudognon Jonas H.** who answered our many questions on careers, the internship experience, life in Geneva, and so much more!

Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to the **WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training, Imperial College London, Celine Tabche, FHEA, MSc, ANtr, Ela Augustyniak Rachel Barker Salman Rawaf** giving me such an incredible opportunity, and being some of my biggest supporters as I continue to explore public and global health - I truly appreciate this.

As a young person early in her healthcare journey, these are humbling and inspiring lessons that will stick with me for the rest of my career!



V. DETAILED FEEDBACK SUMMARY

DAY 1 FEEDBACK SUMMARY – WHO HEADQUARTERS (25 JUNE 2025)

Overall Satisfaction

All participants reported achieving their desired learning outcomes from Day 1. Satisfaction with knowledge gained was consistently high, reflecting strong alignment between session content and learning objectives and the relevance of the topics covered.

Session	Average Rating (out of 5)
Non-Communicable Diseases	4.81
Global Health Governance: Current Shifts	4.76
Antimicrobial Resistance	4.76
Polio Eradication (Current Outbreak in Gaza)	4.71
Digital Health & AI Governance	4.48

Figure 1. Average Session Ratings Across the WHO HQ Trip

Day 1 sessions consistently scored above 4.4/5, demonstrating very high perceived educational value. Sessions combining technical depth with policy relevance were particularly well received.

Students highlighted:

- Exposure to WHO's global leadership role and governance functions
- Improved understanding of AMR, polio eradication, and digital health governance
- Appreciation for speakers' real-world operational experience
- Constructive feedback focused on session length and the desire for additional breaks and interaction time.

DAY 2 FEEDBACK SUMMARY – WHO HEADQUARTERS (26 JUNE 2025)

Overall Satisfaction and Learning Outcomes

All respondents (100%) reported that they achieved their desired learning or experience outcomes from the second day. Students highlighted the value of exposure to diverse perspectives, real-world policy dilemmas, and WHO's role as a global norm-setter operating across political, cultural, and epidemiological contexts.

Key learning reflections included:

- Understanding the breadth of WHO's work across health, climate, emergencies, and workforce issues
- Recognition of the political and power dynamics shaping global health decision-making
- Appreciation of how evidence, norms, and operational realities interact at the global level
- Students described the day as "perfect," "eye-opening," and "out of expectation."

Imperial to WHO

SWIPE →

8 THINGS THAT SHIFTED MY THINKING D-2 AT WHO HQ

DAY - 2
Ria Risdianti



SESSION RATINGS AND FEEDBACK

TABLE 2. AVERAGE SESSION RATINGS – DAY 2

Session	Average Rating (out of 5)
Health Impact of Climate Change	4.7
Where Do Young People Get Contraceptives From?	4.7
Global Health Workforce (incl. post-pandemic mental health crisis)	4.7
Health Emergencies (incl. violence against health professionals in conflict)	4.7
Strengthening Health Systems for WHO 2030 NTD Roadmap	4.5

All sessions achieved exceptionally high ratings, with four sessions scoring 4.7/5, indicating strong engagement, relevance, and perceived educational value.

SESSION-SPECIFIC INSIGHTS

HEALTH IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE



Students described the session as insightful and thought-provoking, even when outside their primary interests. Feedback highlighted appreciation for the balance between scientific evidence, political realities, and actionable solutions, though some noted that presentation slides were content-heavy.

Where Do Young People Get Contraceptives From?

This session exceeded expectations for many students. Feedback emphasised its relevance to equity, youth-centred policy design, and access to sexual and reproductive health services, with strong engagement reported.

Global Health Workforce (Including the Post-Pandemic Mental Health Crisis)

Students described this session as engaging and impactful, particularly valuing discussion of workforce sustainability, mental health, and the long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on health systems and personnel.

Health Emergencies (Including Violence Against Health Professionals in Conflict)

This session was repeatedly described as "eye-opening" and "perfect." Students noted its importance in understanding the ethical, operational, and protection challenges faced by health workers in conflict-affected and emergency settings.

Strengthening Health Systems for the WHO 2030 NTD Roadmap

Although some students indicated the topic was not their primary area of interest, feedback consistently described the session as insightful and informative, highlighting the value of linking disease-specific strategies to broader health system strengthening.

ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS

Open-ended feedback for Day2 was overwhelmingly positive, with students expressing appreciation for:

DAY 2 SUMMARY

Day 2 emerged as one of the strongest components of the programme, combining consistently high session ratings with full achievement of learning outcomes. Feedback confirms that students valued both the content depth and the opportunity to engage with complex, real-world global health challenges through a WHO lens.

DAY 3 FEEDBACK SUMMARY – WHO HEADQUARTERS & PARTNER INSTITUTIONS (27 JUNE 2025)

OVERALL SATISFACTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Seven out of nine respondents reported fully achieving their desired learning outcomes, with the remaining two indicating partial achievement. Students demonstrated increased awareness that global health is shaped not only by science, but also by power, politics, and institutional decision-making.

Session Ratings

Table 3. Average Session Ratings – Day 3

Session	Average Rating (out of 5)
Youth Engagement and Initiatives	4.44
WFUNA	4.11
Geneva Environment Network & International Environmental Governance	3.22



SESSION-SPECIFIC INSIGHTS

- Youth Engagement and Initiatives: Inspiring and motivating, though some students requested deeper exploration of how youth voices influence decision-making.
- WFUNA: Informative and novel, but some overlap with other initiatives was noted.
- Geneva Environment Network: Recognised as important but perceived as lacking structure and senior-level engagement.

OVERALL TRIP EVALUATION

The overwhelmingly positive recommendation rate underscores the perceived value of the trip and its relevance to students' academic and professional development.

VI. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Drawing on feedback across all three days, the following improvement areas have been identified:

1. Session Design and Pacing

- Shorten session duration where feasible
- Schedule regular breaks to reduce cognitive fatigue
- Increase protected time for discussion and Q&A

2. Depth and Differentiation

- Avoid duplication across sessions
- Clearly articulate learning objectives at the start of each session
- Ensure content depth matches postgraduate-level expectations

3. Format and Facilitation

- Prioritise senior technical or policy leads for external partner sessions
- Improve structure and facilitation of multi-speaker sessions
- Increase interactive and participatory elements

4. Experiential Learning

- Introduce a guided WHO building tour where feasible
- Expand opportunities for informal networking and reflection
- Increase in-person institutional visits

VII. CONCLUSION

The 2025 WHO Headquarters trip provided a transformative professional learning experience, strengthened students' understanding of global health governance, collaborations between various global health actors and inspired future global health leadership.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WHO Colleagues:

Margaret Harris

Nick Banatvala

Sameer Pujari

Hatim Sati

Oliver Rosenbauer

Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum

Venkatram Chandra-Mouli

Asante Kamuyango

Meredith Fendt-Newlin and Tapas Nair

Abdi Muhamad

Albis Gabrielli and Bernadette Abela

Dorine van der Wal

Finn Carlson

Geneva Environment Network & International Environmental Governance

Jonas Huyghebaert & colleagues

Diana RIZZOLIO

Jonas HUYGHEBAERT

Marine DUDOGNON

Mihaela Claudia PAUN

Tomas MARQUES

WHO CC Interns: Emmanuel Uramae, Ishiani Sharma, Mona Kuroiwa, Helene Davis.

WHO CC Colleagues: Celine Tabche, Rachel Barker, Professor Salman Rawaf