

UNMC, College of Public Health
Applied Practice Experience (APEX) Opportunities

Partner organization name: Hear U International

Partner organization website: <https://cehs.unl.edu/secd/nebraska-hearing-aid-banks/>

Partner organization brief description:

Hear U International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the global need for hearing aids in underserved communities. Through partnerships with universities and a multidisciplinary team, Hear U provides affordable hearing aids while fostering student leadership and collaboration in audiology, public health, business, and technology

Partner organization's point of contact name and email: Stacie Ray (Stacie.Ray@unl.edu) and Emily Wakefield (Emily.Wakefield@unl.edu)

Description of partner organization's priority opportunities (APEX activities):

The APEX intern will contribute to the implementation of a sustainable program that provides hearing aids to underserved populations in low resources countries. This experience will allow the intern to apply foundational public health competencies in program planning, evaluation, advocacy, and systems thinking while working with the multidisciplinary team to ensure access to hearing healthcare.

- **Program Development and Implementation Support:** Develop an effective and efficient model for coordinating the distribution of hearing aids to underserved populations in low resource countries. Ensure a streamlined process from application for services to delivery of devices.
- **Community Engagement & Advocacy:** Develop digital materials to reach underserved communities on a newly developed website. Coordinate services with other non-profit organizations serving deaf and hard of hearing individuals in low-resource countries.
- **Sustainability Planning:** Collaborate with Hear U staff to develop a long-term sustainability plan.
- **Social Media & Outreach:** Plan and create content for Hear U's social media platforms to promote the initiative and raise awareness about Hear U International.

Timeframe of proposed activities: May 19, 2025 – July 25, 2025

Benefit of proposed activities to partner organization:

- Increased program reach and impact through effective community engagement and sustainability planning.

Benefit of proposed activities to the student:

- Hands-on experience in public health program implementation within a multidisciplinary setting.
- Development of skills in program planning, sustainability planning, and advocacy.
- Enhanced understanding of hearing healthcare access and disparities in underserved populations.

*Note—An affiliation agreement will be required prior to student engagement

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Skill sets of students requested:

- Strong organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with students from different disciplines.
- Experience or interest in social media promotion and public health advocacy.
- Knowledge of public health principles and program evaluation.
- Proficiency in Canva, Meta Business Suite, or other social media management tools is a plus.

Additional Information (format of preferred engagement-virtual, hybrid, in-person; partner organization's location):

- The project can be conducted in a remote, hybrid, or in-person format based on the student's location and preference.
- Hear U is located on the East Campus at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- If remote or hybrid, the student must have a laptop and internet access.