



**CRITERIA FOR COURSES SEEKING APPROVAL AS A
DIPLOMA COURSE IN CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE AND TRAVELERS' HEALTH**

AS FULLFILLMENT FOR THE DIPLOMA COURSE PATHWAY FOR
ASTMH EXAMINATION IN
CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE AND TRAVELERS' HEALTH

BACKGROUND

Since 1995, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene has offered the Certificate of Knowledge in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Traveler's Health (CTropMed® program) to recognize individual excellence in training and knowledge.

Attainment of the CTropMed® certificate requires:

- Demonstration of 2 months of clinical experience in a tropical medicine setting.
- Documentation of either extensive clinical experience or completion of a specialized training course in clinical tropical medicine.
- Passing an examination in clinical tropical medicine and traveler's health administered by the Society.

DIPLOMA COURSE

With the goal of fostering professional development, the Society has advocated and facilitated the development of new training programs in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health and has established a mechanism for recognizing these courses and criteria to attaining the CTropMed® certificate. These courses, known as "Diploma" Courses, may vary considerably in format and even in broad objectives, but in order to be approved by the Society they should cover the topic matter included on the Exam and should have an expectation of conferring on the trainee a certain degree of competence in the subjects described below.

The criteria for ASTMH course approval are:

1. Topical content: Subject matter should include, as a minimum, coverage of educational guidelines with emphasis on clinical tropical medicine and case management. [Exam Content Outline](#) can be found on the website.
2. Course time distribution: Minimum of 300 hours contact time – this can be in person or virtual or combination of both.

- a. At least 150 hours of specific content delivery time covering the content material referenced above. These hours can consist of didactic lectures, case studies, small group problem solving sessions, etc. and may be delivered in a variety of formats including online and in person.
 - b. At least 35 hours of laboratory time which can be delivered, ideally as practical hands on, but can also be delivered virtually.
 - c. The balance of the time is flexible and can be innovative but must be supervised and complemented with educational material (i.e., video-based cases, travel clinics with accompanying curriculum, clinical rounds, computer modeling, anthropometrics analysis, etc.). No more than 50% of this flexible time should be spent on a single activity such as a travel clinic.
3. Laboratory requirement: Individuals who are awarded the Diploma Certificate from the accredited course are expected to have adequate hands-on experience with basic laboratory diagnostic technology enabling them to use technology likely available or achievable in a resource poor setting. In general, this will include familiarity with the use of a microscope, with basic staining techniques for microbial pathogens, preparation of basic clinical specimens (blood, urine, stool, sputum) for simple microbial and bacteriologic techniques, and performance of simple tests such as rapid diagnostic tests, urinalysis, complete blood count, cerebrospinal fluid cell count, etc. There is the expectation that the individual should be able to visually recognize the microscopic (or macroscopic) appearance of major microbial and helminth organisms. The Diploma course should provide a minimum of 35 hours of laboratory studies, ideally as hands-on time in the lab covering the above competencies.
4. Demonstration of appropriate training and overseas experience of key faculty.
5. Expectation of course to impart to trainee's essential skills and competence in:
 - a. Clinical tropical medicine.
 - b. Laboratory skills in a low-technology setting. Knowledge of the laboratory identification of pathogens related to tropical diseases, with hands on experience highly recommended.
 - c. Epidemiology and disease control.
 - d. Travelers' health.

The Committee acknowledges the diversity and richness of the proposals being considered as well as the diversity of candidate pools for these courses. Some Diploma Courses may encompass broader or more specialized approaches to tropical medicine

and may award a Diploma or degree in addition to the Diploma in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health. Nevertheless, it is expected that the subject matter and competency expectations be considered core material in any course recommended by ASTMH to fulfill the requirement to sit for the ASTMH Examination and ultimately receive the CTropMed® certificate.

6. Evidence of institutional support (e.g. Letter from the Dean on institution letterhead).

To submit a proposal for a Diploma Course, please include the following in a document of no more than 5 pages total for sections 1 - 4:

1. Brief General Description of Proposed Course.
2. Coverage of Educational Guidelines: please refer to the [Exam Content Outline](#) and indicate how the referenced topics will be covered.
3. Course Time Distribution
 - a. Total hours contact time:
 - i. Number of content delivery hours:
 1. Brief description of format of content delivery hours.
 - ii. Number of Lab hours:
 1. Brief description of format and subject content of lab hours.
 - iii. Flexible time: total hours
 1. Activities: please describe the activities comprising the balance of the course.
 2. Time: please indicate the approximate proportion of flexible time spent on each activity.
4. Please indicate proposed dates for the course, venue, target audience, estimated cost, and any other features of the course you'd like to bring to the Course Approval Committee's attention.
5. Abbreviated CVs of key faculty indicating clinical tropical medicine training and overseas experience – no more than 1 page per faculty member is preferred.
6. Please send Dean's letter of commitment or other similar indication of institutional support.