

Pre-Med & Pre-Health

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR PRE-MED & PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

In the past decade there has been increasing recognition that health issues are global concerns and that their solutions seldom lie within the borders of a single country. Health care professionals, whether collaborating with colleagues across the globe or treating patients in their own communities, must deal frequently with questions of language, health policy, and cultural practice in a multi-cultural setting. Study abroad is one means by which students preparing for health-related careers can gain international and cross-cultural perspectives on the critical medical and health policy questions confronting us today.



GETTING STARTED

1.) Plan early: Talk to your general academic and concentration advisors about your interest in going abroad and your goals while abroad.	To meet with a pre-med or pre-health concentration advisor contact: LSA Academic Advising: 764-0332
2.) Visit the OIP: Learn about program offerings and attend the OIP study abroad fair and information sessions.	OIP's Study Abroad Fairs: Fall Fair – Mid September Summer Fair – Mid January
3.) Narrow down your program options: Review course offerings and how they can satisfy concentration and distribution requirements.	See OIP's website: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/oip-study-abroad.htm
4.) Research program costs: Review OIP information on program costs; learn about scholarship options and financial aid for which you may be eligible.	http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/financial.htm
5.) Apply for your program.	Online application: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/applying.htm

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Study Abroad and Medical School Admissions: Medical and other graduate health degree programs have strictly defined criteria for acceptance, one of which is all core required undergraduate science and math classes are taken at an accredited U.S. college or university. It is, therefore, not advisable to take any prescribed courses (organic chemistry) on a study abroad program. However, admissions committees do value other aspects of a student's profile, such as writing skills, extra-curricular activities, travel (without parents), and medically related experience. Study abroad offers many ways to enhance your application and distinguish yourself from other candidates.

Some programs offer opportunities to study a variety of health-related social issues, such as medical ethics, medical history, health needs of particular populations, the politics and economics of health policies, etc. In addition, there are some very attractive opportunities to pursue health-related research and internships on a study abroad program.

*"Little did I know that I would undergo many personal challenges such as learning to talk to all sorts of different people of social backgrounds and beliefs."
~ David Z.*

Pre-health academic requirements: Plan the sequence of core pre-health courses to allow for a semester or year abroad. |

Medically related experiences: What volunteer, research, or clinical opportunities are available and how can they help?

Timing: British universities tend to require junior standing, while Australian universities will consider second-year students. You need to consider the timing of the MCAT (www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm) and the where it is offered. Locations where the MCAT is currently administered include: Australia, Great Britain, France, Germany, India, Japan, Lebanon, Qatar, Singapore, and South Africa.

Satisfying distribution and general LSA requirements with courses taken abroad: Not all pre-health students pursue a science concentration. As long pre-med science requirements are fulfilled, you are free to choose a concentration from among the humanities or social sciences, many of which allow some requirements to be completed on study abroad programs. Study abroad credits may also be used to fulfill distribution requirements, with approval of an academic advisor. Cross-cultural expertise is an asset, whether or not it directly pertains to health training.

◆ **Distribution Credit** – To use a course or courses taken abroad to satisfy Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, or another distribution category, you should meet with your LSA advisor before going abroad. Take detailed

course descriptions or as much information as you can gather to the advising appointment. If you are unable to get this information ahead of time, or if your course elections change while abroad, bring back as much course information as you can, so that your advisor can effectively evaluate the course upon return.

◆ **Race and Ethnicity** – It is generally advisable to take R & E class on campus. However, if you want to use a course taken abroad to satisfy this requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. As part of your petition, you need to provide a syllabus for the course and write an argument explaining how you felt the course met the spirit of the requirement. Petition forms with the R & E criteria are available on the web or at the Newnan LSA Advising Center. Keep in mind that you may not be able to get a syllabus for the course, so bring back as much course information as you can—e.g. reading lists, coursepacks, papers, etc. If the syllabus and/or course materials are not in English, contact the Academic Standards Board to see if you need to have them translated. Board members can translate Spanish, French, and German.

◆ **Quantitative Reasoning** – To use a class taken abroad to satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. You need to present a course syllabus as well as materials showing the type of work done in the course (homework, quizzes, exams, and textbooks are helpful.)

◆ **Upper Level Writing Requirement** – It's extremely rare for a study abroad course to be approved for Upper-Level Writing. Generally these courses must be taught on campus by U-M faculty. If you want to request an exception, contact the Sweetland Writing Center, but keep in mind that such approvals are not likely granted.



PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED FOR PRE-MED AND PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS:

AUSTRALIA

[UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE](#)

In this fall, winter, or academic year program students can take courses from a full range offered by many faculties, including the sciences. Sample courses include those in anatomy and cell biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, biomedical science, genetics, pharmacology, physiology and psychology.

[UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES](#)

During the fall, winter, or academic year students may choose from a full range of academic courses. A sample of those touching on the medical and health fields include those from the medical science and health and exercise science programs..

[UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA](#)

On this fall, winter, or academic year program – health- and medically-minded students have many course offering options from the Faculty of Life and Physical Science, among others.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC](#)

This is a spring term program in which students with at least 2 semesters of college-level Spanish can take a five-credit field-based research seminar that provides an introduction to health, nutrition, and related environmental issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. The latter course includes visits to urban and rural sites of interest to enhance participants' understanding of public health issues in the Dominican Republic.

GREAT BRITAIN

[KING'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON](#)

The medical school at King's is affiliated with three of the most famous and distinguished teaching hospitals in the United Kingdom (Guy's, St. Thomas, and King's College hospitals). This program, offered both as a single semester and a full year, offers a combination of high-level biomedical science courses, a specially designed seminar in the practice of medicine, and an intensive 2-week clinical attachment. A research option is also available to full-year students.



[LANCASTER UNIVERSITY, LANCASTER](#)

Winter-term or full-year program; course offerings include Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Ecology, Mathematics, and Physics. Additional health-related fields available include Psychology, Applied Social Science and Sociology, Health Promotion, Health Studies, Social Ethics, and Nursing. There are also opportunities to complete research projects and internships related to health care. Special pre-med advising is available, including coordination of group MCAT preparation.

[SUSSEX UNIVERSITY, BRIGHTON](#)

Winter-term or full-year program; course offerings in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics, taught by faculty with experience teaching the same courses in North American universities. A special seminar course on the British National Health Service is also offered. Students can also take health-related courses in such subjects as Psychology in Medicine; Culture, Health & Madness; Health Studies; Therapeutic Interventions; and Sociology of Health and Illness. A special pre-medical advisor can assist students with medical school applications and applications to take the MCAT. Volunteering in the local hospital can also be arranged through the program.

[QUEEN MARY WESTFIELD COLLEGE, LONDON](#)

Winter-term or full-year program; undergraduate departments include Environmental Science; Genetics; and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

"The eight weeks that I spent in the CIC Dominican Republic Program put me into an environment where I was ... taught how the standardized" approach that we have here is thrown out the window in places like the Dominican Republic."

~ David Z

Science, Social Policy and Psychology.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON

Winter-term or full-year program; significant course offerings in Anatomy & Physiology; Human Sciences, Science and Technology Studies; Medical Physics and Bioengineering; and Biology of Fertility and Embryo Development.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, GREAT BRITAIN

Winter-term or full-year program; undergraduate subjects in the School of Science and Engineering include Psychology; Cell Biology; Ecology; and Sport & Exercise Science.

UNIVERSITY OF YORK, GREAT BRITAIN

Winter-term or full-year program; significant offerings in Health

SOUTH AFRICA

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Single-semester or academic year programs. Undergraduates on study abroad may take classes at the Faculty of Health Science in the following subjects: Physiotherapy; Occupational Therapy; Speech-Language Pathology; or Audiology. Website: www.health.uct.ac.za/

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL (DURBAN & PIETERMARITZBURG)

Single-semester or academic year programs. Undergraduate coursework available in the Faculty of Science: Medical Science and Environmental Science; in the Faculty of Science & Agriculture: Rural Resource Management; Dietetics & Nutrition; and Food Science; in the Faculty of Human Science: Development Studies; Community Resource Studies; and Ethics Studies.

