



MEDICAL SERVICE LEARNING (MSL) PROGRAM IN ECUADOR

General Information

FUNDACION HORIZONTE, a non-profit organization, offers a unique **Medical Service Learning (MSL) Program** which combines medical experience through half day rotations in a range of clinical sites, half day intensive Spanish classes, and amazing cultural opportunities. You will have the chance to observe and learn to work in a clinical and public health environment with limited diagnostic and therapeutic resources, where you will have the opportunity to develop creativity in problem-solving and will be in direct contact with patients. The service-learning is not a volunteer experience; it is a chance to experience another culture and healthcare system in a responsible way.

With the coordination of our Medical Director, participants in this program will rotate during a minimum of 2 weeks in general primary care or specialized clinical sites, according to the personal interest of the student. The participant will simultaneously take medical and conversational Spanish classes, and at the same time will be immersed in the Ecuadorian culture through the home stay experience and interactions with medical staff during clinical rotations. Most students also take advantage of sightseeing opportunities during the evenings and weekends, as there are a number of museums, historical sites, eye-opening weekend trips, and other attractions in and around the lively city of Quito.

The **MSL Program** is 2, 4 or 8 weeks long, and you may participate in an observational or hands on experience. The Medical Director of the program adjusts Rotations according to the committed time, interests and educational level of the student / physicians.

The **MSL Program** includes Spanish courses. The more Spanish you know, the more opportunity you will have to get a hands-on medical experience out of the program.

There are no application deadlines. We prefer to receive the applications at least 2-3 months in advance. The advance notice allows us adequate time to make all the preparations according to your needs.

Rotations:

On the application form, you will be asked about your clinical preferences. The clinical rotations will be based on this information. The Medical Director will set the activities according to your preferences and will communicate you in advance. The Medical Director will try and incorporate your preferences. For example, if you have a specific interest in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, you will be rotating in an Ob-Gyn Hospital.

If you want to participate in an extended program of 4 or up to 8 weeks, you may also want to rotate for several clinical areas. The information you provide in your registration form is very

important in order to adjust the rotation to your needs and interests, but once you arrive and are incorporated to the assigned clinical service, you are not allowed to change to a different area.

Your hands-on experience depends on whether you are a clinical or pre-clinical student. If you are an advanced level medical student with good communication skills you can expect to see patients under the supervision of your tutor, once the doctor develop trust in your abilities. If you are pre-clinical you will be more in an observational role. It is essential that you work hard to develop good relationships with the doctors in the program. You will get more hands-on experience if you work to express your skills and comfort in the clinical environment. It is also very important to be honest. If you do not know how to perform a clinical procedure, you should NOT attempt to do it.

Your hands-on experience also depends on your language ability. As your language skills improve you can look forward to taking histories, conducting patient interviews, and discussing case studies with your clinical physicians. The physicians will try and involve you as much as possible so you must show interest, enthusiasm, drive and an ability to ask questions. The more outgoing you are, the more doors will open. The experience is different for each and every participant depending on their individual abilities and attitudes as well as the way they can build relations with their tutors.

By the end of your rotation a Service-Learning Certificate indicating the area you have been practicing and the number of working hours will be issued. The certificate will include the signature of the MSL Program Medical Director.

After you are accepted, you may request an “elective letter” to be sent to you or your advisor with information about how you will be evaluated and basic roles and responsibilities of MSL Program participants. The program has a Medical Director who will complete your evaluation forms. It is very important that you bring these forms, and take responsibility for their completion and submission to your school. We also ask that you mail a copy to FUNDACION HORIZONTE to keep in your file.

Language Training Component:

The MSL Program participants will take intensive Spanish language classes that cover grammar and conversational Spanish, or in order to practice your Medical Spanish vocabulary and interviewing skills. Some classes may be taught in small groups and others individually.

After evaluating the language skills level, the professor tailors a program according to the individual needs of the student working in one-to-one basis. Depending on their Spanish ability, students could start since the first week with both, classes and the clinic observational rotations. The minimum commitment time for this program is 2 weeks.

If you would like to continue with additional language classes beyond the 40 hours that are included during the first two weeks of the program, you are welcome to schedule these by the

week so they do not interfere with your scheduled clinical rotations. If you set up extra hours of Spanish class, please note that they are not included in the program fee, so you will have to pay the extra fee per hour.

The Language Program Coordinators also provide extra activities such as salsa dancing classes, cooking classes, and tours of the city and important landmarks for a very affordable extra charge.

Accommodation:

Comfortable accommodations are a key component of an effective study abroad program. The program offers two alternatives:

1. Family home-stays.- The family home-stay option is intended for those students who want to maximize their learning—not only in terms of Medicine and Spanish, but also Ecuadorian culture—by sharing in the daily life of the family. Home-stay families are carefully chosen and screened by the MSL Program to provide the support and comfort necessary for a pleasant and enriching stay. Each student will always have his/her own private room and will share bathroom facilities with the family. Three meals a day and weekly laundry service is included with this option.

If you decide to arrive early or stay with the home-stay family after your program has ended, you will need to pay \$16.00 USD per day for the time spent outside of the MSL program.

2. Students' Apartment.-The MSL Program offers a fully-equipped student house in a safe and tranquil neighbourhood in the modern part of the city. Close to shopping, restaurants, parks, and public transportation.

This option has been designed for those students wishing to maintain their independence while sharing experiences with other students from distinct parts of the world.

The house is fully furnished, with living room and kitchen and two bathrooms. Laundry service and one full meal are also provided. The cost per day is \$12.00 USD.

Communication:

You will be assigned a mobile phone for the duration of your stay. All-important phone numbers will have been pre-programmed along with a limited amount of airtime for emergencies. To make calls over and above the airtime included, you can purchase pre-paid phone cards at various locations locally.

You will be required to sign a \$100 release form in order to receive the cell phone. You will not be charged the \$100 fee if the phone is returned in good working order to the Program Coordinator.

Eligibility:

This program is open to those who possess all levels of Spanish: Basic, Intermediate or Advance. Accepts participants who are 21 or over at the time of participation, and is open for participants of all nationalities who may be:

- Medical Residents
- Medical Students
- Senior level Pre-Medical Students
- Nursing Students

If you do not fit into one of these categories, please contact us to see if you would be eligible to apply.

Costs:

	Application Fee	Medical Rotation	Spanish classes	Home-stay	Total
<u>2 weeks Program:</u> 40 hours rotation 40 hours Spanish classes	\$ 55.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 280.00	\$224.00	\$1059.00
<u>4 weeks Program</u> 80 hours rotation 80 hours Spanish classes	\$ 55.00	\$1000.00	\$560.00	\$448.00	\$2063.00
<u>6 weeks Program</u> 120 hours rotation 120 hours Spanish classes	\$ 55.00	\$1500.00	\$840.00	\$672.00	\$3067.00
<u>8 weeks Program</u> 160 hours rotation 160 hours Spanish classes	\$ 55.00	\$2000.00	\$1120.00	\$896.00	\$4071.00

	Application Fee	Medical Rotation	Spanish classes	Apart-stay	Total
<u>2 weeks Program:</u> 40 hours rotation 40 hours Spanish classes	\$ 55.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 280.00	\$168.00	\$1003.00
<u>4 weeks Program</u> 80 hours rotation 80 hours Spanish classes	\$ 55.00	\$1000.00	\$560.00	\$336.00	\$1951.00
<u>6 weeks Program</u> 120 hours rotation 120 hours Spanish classes	\$ 55.00	\$1500.00	\$840.00	\$504.00	\$2899.00
<u>8 weeks Program</u>					



160 hours rotation	\$ 55.00	\$2000.00	\$1120.00	\$672.00	\$3847.00
160 hours Spanish classes					

Payment Schedule:

The application fee is charged upon application to the program. Within 2-3 weeks, applicants will be accepted or rejected for participation in the program. Once you are accepted, a transferable, but non-refundable deposit of \$350 is due within 15 days.

For the payment of the application fee and confirmation deposit, we accept bank check or money order payments in U.S dollars only. Credit card payments are converted to U.S dollars automatically. The final balance of the program fees is due upon your arrival to Quito - Ecuador.

Costs include:

- Airport pick up
- Orientation upon arrival
- Accommodation
- Weekly meetings with our Medical Director and Program Coordinator.
- Clinical rotations Monday-Friday, excepting holidays or work stoppages, working with a local physician who participates as a teaching tutor.
- 20 hours per week of Spanish classes with a private instructor
- Learning materials and miscellaneous information
- Learning Service Certificate
- Cell phone for emergency phone calls
- Free internet access and wireless
- Access to extra-curricular activities such as salsa and traditional cooking classes
- Travel assistance

Not included:

- Airfare to Quito, Ecuador
- Airport drop-off
- Passport or visa fees
- Vaccinations
- City transportation to and from clinic sites
- Other expenses of a personal nature like weekend and after-hour activities. This includes but is not limited to local transportation, tourist trips in and around Quito, and any personal expenses incurred.