For a pre-med major, securing an internship can sometimes be a difficult task. On the one hand, having only preliminary education and experience in the healthcare field means that hands-on work is necessarily limited. On the other hand, though, interns run into the eternal question of “how can I gain experience without having experience already?” ELI has a wide range of internships around the world that address these questions directly. While a pre-medical student will clearly not be performing c-sections or drawing blood, an internship abroad can still help to familiarize the student with the healthcare system in the developing world. The chance to shadow world-class doctors and possibly even observe surgeries and major procedures provides our interns with unique experiences they can bring with them into medical school and future internships.

**While in some programs we can accommodate pre-medical students of all levels, it is highly recommended that interns have junior or senior status**

**PHILIPPINES**

In the Philippines, we have 2 internships that work wonderfully for pre-medical students. Interns have the option of working with either a Rural Health Unit (RHU) or with our Nutrition Project. In the RHU’s, doctors and nurses travel to local barangays (suburbs) of Tacloban City where they work with any and all medical issues that come in. Through these clinics 8 medical staff care for as many as 20,000 people; as a result, the assistance of the interns is very important to the success of these projects. Pre-medical students can assist with taking vitals and the organization of the clinic as well as with anything else the staff feels comfortable with.

The Nutrition Project is an ongoing community assistance and education plan put into action by our partner organization in the Philippines. Interns travel to neighboring barangays where they take statistics on malnutrition, especially among children, and begin community public health education initiatives to help parents make the healthiest decisions for food options given limited resources. Previous interns have done everything from teach classes about diabetes to training children to make healthy and inexpensive granola bars to eat as a daily snack. This internship is ideal for a participant who is interested in public health and the social implications of healthcare in a community.

**COSTA RICA**

In Costa Rica, we can set up pre-med interns with placements at the public hospital of Tilaran (2 hours northwest from San José) This is a great opportunity for people who want to participate in health campaigns and health outreach programs. Participants on this program will have no medical responsibilities, but may be given tasks such as assisting with patient histories, taking vitals, and anything else the hospital staff feels is appropriate. Interns at the hospital are encouraged to get involved in the health education outreach programs in order to give back to the community as well as learn first hand about the health challenges the community faces. This is a great way to have a positive impact on the surrounding community while learning a lot through the experience of working in a hospital.

**INDIA**

ELI works with charitable hospitals in Chennai and Madurai to create unique internships designed for pre-med, pre-nursing, nursing, medical and dental students. Interns have the opportunity to shadow doctors and nurses, observe diagnoses and treatment schedules, and learn firsthand about the day-to-day practice of medicine in India. Pre-meds may have the opportunity to view surgeries and may be asked to assist with some tasks if the staff feels the participant is capable and the assignment is appropriate. Participants in this program are also encouraged to assist with public health education campaigns in the community.

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Ecuador’s diverse population is descended from many different groups of indigenous peoples, Spanish and other European colonists, Africans brought to the Americas as slaves, and Asian immigrants. The country is one of the poorer countries of South America and is facing many developmental challenges. ELI works with many charitable clinics and public hospitals to create opportunities for medical, nursing, and physical therapy students. Participants will gain an understanding of some of the complicated issues the healthcare system in Ecuador is grappling with and learn from professional staff. Depending on the placement, participants may be assigned specific tasks by their supervising doctor. Please note that participants in this program must have a high intermediate to advanced level of Spanish proficiency and knowledge of medical vocabulary will be very helpful.

The hospitals in Thailand are known the world over for their advanced and professional care. Students who intend to pursue a career in medicine can now learn about the medical system in Chiang Mai first hand. This program is ideal for students who would like to learn about tropical diseases and public health issues in the region. Students shadow doctors and assist staff 5-7 hours a day Monday through Friday. Placements are available for medical students and pre-meds with junior or senior status. Interns with this program live with other participants in the volunteer house.

*Interns must have at least junior status to participate in this program*

Currently Ghana has an average doctor/population ratio of 1 doctor to 20,000 people. The major cities of Accra and Kumasi are not much better than the average with a doctor to population ratio of about 1 to 3,000. The clinics and hospitals in the city are constantly busy and patients usually have to wait in line for hours in order to receive care. To make health care accessible to all Ghanaians, the Ministry of Health is pursuing a variety of programs in conjunction with the World Health Organization and NGOs. Participants in the health program have a variety of options from assisting in busy city hospitals and clinics to traveling to remote villages to assist in providing primary health care and health education programs. Participants working in one of the urban clinics and hospitals will shadow doctors and nurses and assist with tasks around the hospital. Tasks will be assigned according to the experience and performance of the participant. Many hospitals and clinics also periodically arrange health camps, which are open to Ghanaians who may not otherwise be able to receive care due to financial or social barriers. Interns are welcome to participate in these camps if they happen to occur during their time in Ghana.

Interns with this program will assist a group of residents in a public hospital in the city of Buenos Aires. Within this group of residents, the participant will be able to:

• See the patients with the residents
• Assist in taking patient histories
• Observe examinations

The specific duties assigned to interns depend on Spanish proficiency, past experience in clinical settings, and the level of education in the medical field. All tasks are assigned by the hospital staff completely at their discretion. This is a wonderful opportunity to massively improve your Spanish language skills and learn medical terminology while learning about the healthcare system in Argentina.
Nepal

ELI offers a number of opportunities in Nepal for pre-medical students to work with experienced relief workers who would like to help out. Working at a hospital in Nepal is an opportunity to learn firsthand about healthcare in a third world country. Typically, participants spend 6-8 hours a day at one of three locations: a small private hospital, a medium sized private hospital, or a large state-run pediatrics hospital. Participants often help out with free health clinics in the country as well. The program usually entails shadowing a doctor in the morning and helping the staff/focusing on patient care in the afternoon. Clinical experience is helpful, but not necessary.

*Interns must have at least junior status to participate in this program*

Other Programs

For more information on these and our other programs, including program fees and start dates, please visit our website at www.eliabroad.org or contact us directly at info@eliabroad.org. While these 6 programs are the ones 1st and 2nd year medical students often find most useful toward their education, we have health programs in nearly every country we work in, all of which can use the added experience and education a medical student or medical professional brings to the table.

How to Apply

For more information on these, or any of our other programs. Please email us at info@eliabroad.org or call us during normal business hours at 303-321-8278.

You may apply online and pay the application fee at www.eliabroad.org. Please note the application fee is non-refundable unless we cannot find a placement that matches your request. You can also mail your application fee to us at:

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