



ELI Abroad

Voluntarios Internacionales

Vietnam Pharmacy Programs

ELI is proud to offer pharmacy and medical interns an incredible opportunity to learn about healthcare in Vietnam at the renowned Louis Pasteur Clinic in the picturesque hill town, DaLat. The Pasteur Clinic provides a full range of services, specializing in immunizations and the manufacture of vaccines. ELI's interns choose between shadowing in the clinic, working in the blood draw or vaccine rooms, and/or assisting in the laboratory. We have sent students from all over the world to complete rotations at Louis Pasteur:

“I worked in a vaccine clinic in Da Lat, Vietnam. A typical day varied for each volunteer depending on which room in the clinic we were working in. We either volunteered in the blood draw room, vaccine room, or the laboratory and there was plenty of opportunity to rotate and switch rooms. We would generally arrive at the clinic around 7:15 AM and patients would start to be seen at 7:30 AM. I remained in the blood room throughout the trip. So, I spent my mornings doing just that, drawing blood. The sample size drawn would vary depending on which labs were being completed for each patient. Each vile typically needed 2 ml of blood and some tests such as DNA, RNA and Genotyping required upwards of 4 ml each. The tests run in the lab were generally the same gamut that we would find in any US hospital with perhaps a higher frequency of parasitic and toxicology testing used. I would draw the blood using various syringes sizes (3, 5, 10, and 12 ml depending on the needed sample size). I would then inject the blood into the required lab vials and then centrifuge the appropriate vials before passing them onto the lab that was attached to the blood room via a small window. I would also write a receipt for each patient that highlighted when his or her results would be available for pickup. Generally, most results were available for patients the same day within two hours. Most of the toxicology and parasitic testing took two days and the DNA, RNA and genotyping tests took one day. I found this to be quite efficient particularly considering some of the distances these patients were travelling to receive care at the Pasteur Clinic. In addition, I helped to teach new volunteers rotating into the blood draw room the procedure followed in the clinic for how to draw blood properly.” - Daniel B., Sidney Kimmel Medical College MD Candidate



“I learned more than I expected. I learned how the Vietnamese health care system is different to the Australian. The different roles of Pharmacists, rules and regulations and procedures between both countries. I learned various uses of many different vaccinations, and how to administer vaccinations including drawing up the vaccination from vials, and administering it either intramuscular or subcutaneously. I observed how to clean wounds and suture. I learnt how to draw blood from patients, run microbiological test, pathologies, blood type testing, urine testing and much more. My favorite activity in the clinic would be



working in the injection room, interacting with the patients. This experience was life changing.” – Chelsea C., Monash University Pharmacy School, Australia

“Pharmacy taught the ‘Vietnamese way’ was fascinating. You really come to respect different approaches to medical care.”- Kristine N., Regis University School of Pharmacy, Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions

“Since I want to get involved into the research and development of vaccines after my study, I felt really honored that I could do an internship in the vaccination center of the Pasteur clinic of Dalat (Vietnam). I think Eli Abroad has very interesting and well organized internships, also they respond really fast if I had some questions or problems. Vietnam is very far from Belgium and has a lot of cultural and environmental differences, so before I started the internship, I was nervous and worried about a lot. The first day in the clinic was really good, the doctor showed us around; there was the pharmacy, the vaccination room, the consultation rooms, the blood drawing room, the lab,... I could work in the vaccination room and I really liked that place! I learned about all the different types of vaccination and compared these with the one used in Belgium. I liked the internship and I am glad that I had the chance over here to learn how to draw and administrated them, that really helps me to better understand the vaccines. Also I think the professors and pharmaceutical companies in Belgium will really appreciate my Vietnam experience.” –Marth S., Master in Drug Development, KU Leuven, Belgium



“I learned a lot about pharmacy in Vietnam, including rules and regulations, common medications dispensed and labelling/counselling roles. It was interesting as it varied quite a lot compared to Australia, for example how prescriptions in Vietnam are only valid for 5 days compared from 1 year in Australia (or some 6 months). I also learnt to draw up vaccines and administer vaccinations for the first time which was an incredible experience as it is something I would not have been able to do as a student in Australia - and same goes for drawing blood, and conducting blood lab tests. I have learned how to vaccinate which will be useful in my future career. I have also gained experience working in a new setting where there was a language barrier present, which will aid my confidence in future similar settings, and as a health professional in general. There were also many herbal products and medications not available in Australia which I learnt about too which I can apply if I ever work abroad.” – Narges M., Monash University Pharmacy School, Australia



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“The pharmacist and the nurses at the clinics are very knowledgeable. In the pharmacy room, I learned more about the brand name and generic name of many medicines used in Viet Nam. Needless to say, the pharmacists also explain to me how these medicines work in the bodies, their pharmacology, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacokinetics. Sometimes, there were lots of patients who were waiting to buy the medicines. Consequently, the pharmacists gave me the drug’s instructions which became my friends whenever I got back to the hotel. After reading them, if I had any questions, I asked them the next day without hesitation. In the injection room, I was instructed how to check in the patient’s information, see if the indicated vaccines by the doctors are the same as they are on the computer, take out the vaccines from the fridge and hand them to the nurses. In the morning, it was quite busy so these above jobs were my duty. Nonetheless, in the afternoon, since fewer people came, I was excited to learn how to draw the vaccines. At first, I was a bit nervous when handling the needles and the syringes since I just did know how to do anything. The nurses carefully and meticulously demonstrated each step; then Vi also showed me some of her tips to draw it faster and more complete. After that, I could prepare the vaccines, which made my day bright. Furthermore, the staffs taught me where to inject the vaccine correctly. There were always children who were scared of needles or getting hurt. It is very important to know how to hold the children in a right way so that if they try to refuse, the nurses still can give the injection. When the children cried we gave them candies to support their confidence. My favorite activity was preparing the medicines based on the prescription. It may be a boring work to somebody but to me, I learned more than I expected. Most case of any diseases will require the almost similar treatment. However, in some special case, the doctor will prescript the specific medicine. That’s was when a bunch of questions was in my mind. Gratefully, the pharmacists were always patient and told me what important thing. For example, some drugs are using specifically at night only such as chlorpheniramine. This anti-histamine drug has sedative effects, which I haven’t known before. The pharmacist also showed me other anti-histamine in the following generation that could replace the chlorpheniramine reduce the sedation. Another example was the Hepatitis Virus B (HBV) patients. Mostly, they will use Ribavirin 500mg. However, the HBV patients with delta agents need to treat with Tenofovir 25mg. Whenever the patients with skin disease are required two kinds of creams. Mostly, they need to use them separately such as one in the morning and evening, while other in the afternoon and at night. This is because the ingredients in one cream will decrease the efficiency of the other’s function. Overall, it is my pleasure to join this program and learn lots of useful things.” – Han L., advanced Biomedical Sciences undergraduate, Texas A&M University

