COMMUNITY HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE IN COLOMBIA

This academic summer course is offered by the Faculty of Medicine at Universidad de La Sabana in Chía, Colombia. The program will investigate primary health care provision and community health in Colombia. Built with a combination of practical, clinic-based training and classroom teaching, the course offers participants an invaluable chance to learn from leading medical professionals, interact with patients and evaluate treatment practices.

The program is open to undergraduate students, aimed specifically at those interested in a career in community or family Medicine. It will provide unique practical experiences and insights into global health provision, encouraging analysis of the Latin American system in particular.

Colombia has excellent standards of healthcare provision and training. Students will learn about community diagnosis, prioritization in health resources, and development and evaluation of community health improvement plans. In clinical and classroom settings, the program will review the importance of community participation, inter-sectoral collaboration and leadership, and the challenges of establishing successful community health programs. Participants will be able to apply their knowledge in various clinics and through direct contact with the community in the area of influence of Universidad de La Sabana.

COURSE OUTLINE

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

The practical elements of the course will take place in Tenjo, Cajicá and Tabio, towns located near Universidad de La Sabana’s campus just outside Bogota.

Each week, students will receive twelve hours of practical training in teaching hospitals in Tenjo and Cajica, where they will examine patients of all ages under the mentorship of a Resident doctor during Family Medicine appointments.

COMMUNITY VISITS

The Family Medicine appointments will be supplemented by a schedule of community visits, where participants will learn about various medical projects developed to improve community health. They will visit different health organizations and local welfare projects, where they will learn about the challenges of implementing community health programs in Latin America.

CLASSROOM TRAINING

The Community Health and Family Medicine program includes thirteen hours of seminars each week, taught at Universidad de La Sabana’s state of the art campus, just outside Bogota.

Seminars will be delivered in English by academics from La Sabana’s prestigious Faculty of Medicine. Academic content will be closely linked to the practical elements of the program, and students will investigate topics such as Confidence and Credibility in Community Healthcare, the Challenges of Community Healthcare in Displaced Communities and the Principles of Family Medicine.

Participants will have the opportunity to share the classroom and practical activities with Colombian students from Universidad de La Sabana, enabling both groups to benefit from exchanging international perspectives on medical teaching and provision.

OPTIONAL SPANISH LANGUAGE MODULE

The program also offers students the chance to participate in a week-long intensive Spanish language course at the university’s excellent Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures. Classes will be designed specifically to develop students’ medical Spanish skills and to help with the practical, patient-facing elements of the Community Health and Family Medicine course.
UNIVERSIDAD DE LA SABANA

Founded in 1979, Universidad de La Sabana quickly established its reputation for academic excellence and innovation. A prestigious private university with its own teaching hospital, La Sabana places an important emphasis on research and international collaboration, which means that it offers a fantastic learning environment for overseas students.

Located in Chía, on the outskirts of the capital city, the secure campus is surrounded by beautiful mountains and green agricultural land. Campus buildings and classrooms are stylish and modern. The university has wi-fi throughout, a well-equipped library, sports fields and many restaurants and cafes to choose from.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The program is open to ambitious undergraduate students who are enrolled on, or are considering applying for, a Medical program at university. It is suitable for those who are interested in pursuing a career in Global Healthcare, Community or Family Medicine.

Students do not have to be fluent in Spanish to take part in the medical program or to join the Spanish language module, because the seminars, classes and mentorships are conducted in English. However, we recommend that applicants for the program have at least low intermediate (CEFR B1) level of Spanish so that they can communicate somewhat with patients during their hospital and community visits and get the most out of their time in Colombia.

METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT

This intensive four-week program will combine seminars, practical hospital training and community visits, and will consist of 123 academic hours in total.

During the practical elements of the program, where students are taught in a clinical setting, they will be provided with a designated mentor, a Resident at the hospital where they are training. There will be a maximum of two students allocated to each Resident mentor, in order to guarantee training of the highest quality.

Students who successfully complete the course will be provided with a certificate and official transcript to apply for credits at their home university if desired.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND EXCURSIONS

Students will be able take part in at least two social activities each week, such as visiting Bogota’s world famous Gold Museum, hiking to an impressive waterfall, learning to play Tejo, Colombia’s national sport, or sampling delicious local cuisine during a group meal.

Learning about Colombian culture is an important element of the program, and participants will be invited to join a weekend excursion to Villa de Leyva, a pretty colonial town famous for its beautiful scenery, traditional buildings and a range of outdoor activities. The social and cultural activities are carefully selected to enrich participants’ understanding and enjoyment of the country.
ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be housed as a group in residential accommodation within easy reach of the university campus. Each student will be provided with a private bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, and breakfast will be included for the group each day.

Red Tree Study’s program coordinator will be housed in the same accommodation for the duration of the program and will be on hand to help with any questions, and in case of an emergency.

FEES AND DATES

Option 1: Community Healthcare and Family Medicine plus Spanish
Monday 5 June – Friday 7 July 2017, 5 weeks
$4,500 USD

Option 2: Community Healthcare and Family Medicine
Monday 12 June – Friday 7 July 2017, 4 weeks
$3,900 USD

Price includes academic program, supervised accommodation (private en-suite room, bed and breakfast), an airport transfer on arrival, excursions and social activities.

For more information, contact info@redtreestudy.com or apply online at www.redtreestudy.com/unisabana

CONTACT INFORMATION

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