Local, Domestic and Global Volunteer Health Opportunities for Undergraduates & Medical School Students

LOCAL PROGRAMS:

**Bridging the Gaps** [www.med.upenn.edu/btg/](http://www.med.upenn.edu/btg/) Three components of program: Completion of 7-week Community Health Internship Program, attendance at 6 Bridging the Gap (BTG) seminars, and completion of rotation at one of the BTG clinical sites. For the Community Health Internship Program, student interns are matched with one of 100 nonprofit community partners in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Students’ projects are based on needs of community and the professional interests of the students. Open to students who have completed their first year in a graduate school at the following Philadelphia universities: Drexel, Temple, Thomas Jefferson, University of Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine; and Junior year nursing majors at La Salle University. Students who complete all three required components of the program graduate as a Bridging the Gap Clinical Scholar

**The Philadelphia Health Corps** [www.healthfederation.org/phil_health_corp.asp](http://www.healthfederation.org/phil_health_corp.asp) Focus on improving access and quality of healthcare in underserved areas of Philadelphia. Part of AmeriCorps, Sister sites in other locations within the U.S. Services include community outreach, home visitation, providing health education, prescription assistance, language interpretation, fitness and exercise classes, nutrition education, case management, benefits counseling, and volunteer recruitment. Length of program is 46 weeks, usually from September to July

DOMESTIC OPPORTUNITIES:

**AmeriCorps** - [http://www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org) AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country’s critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

**City Year** - [http://www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org) City Year, an AmeriCorps program, unites a diverse group of 17 to 24 year-old young people for a year of full-time, rigorous community service, leadership development, and civic engagement.

**Easter Seals** - [http://www.eastereaseals.com](http://www.eastereaseals.com) Easter Seals has been helping individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families, live better lives for more than 85 years. From child development centers to physical rehabilitation and job training for people with disabilities, Easter Seals offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals.
Habitat for Humanity - http://www.habitat.org/ Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

Jesuit Volunteer Corps - https://www.jesuitvolunteers.org Jesuit Volunteers serve the homeless, the unemployed, refugees, people with AIDS, the elderly, street youth, abused women and children, the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled. JVC has become the largest Catholic lay volunteer program in the country. Social justice, simple lifestyle, community and spirituality are key elements to JVC.

Kiwanis International - http://www.kiwanis.org/ Kiwanis, through guidance and example, works to develop future generations of leaders. Every day, Kiwanians are revitalizing neighborhoods, organizing youth-sports programs, tutoring, building playgrounds, and performing countless other projects to help children and communities.


Points of Light Foundation/Hands on Network - http://www.pointsoflight.org/ The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network engages and mobilizes millions of volunteers who are helping to solve serious social problems in thousands of communities. Through a variety of programs and services, the Foundation encourages people from all walks of life — businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families, youth, and older adults — to volunteer.

Red Cross - http://www.redcross.org/services/volunteer/0,10820,325_00.html The American Red Cross helps people in emergencies every day. Whether its half a million disaster victims or one sick child who needs blood, Our vital work is made possible by people like you, who learn how good it can feel to lend a helping hand.

Teach for America - http://www.teachforamerica.org/ Teach For America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates and professionals of all academic majors and career interests who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become leaders in the effort to expand educational opportunity.

United Way - http://www.unitedway.org/getinvolved/index.cfm United Way calls volunteers to be engaged in creating a shared vision and commitment to improving communities by focusing on the root causes of the most serious problems. It has existed for more than a century because it recognizes that its' most important resource is people-those it serves and all who volunteer, work, invest and care about making a long-term change in community conditions.
INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Amigos de las Américas - http://www.amigoslink.org/ Amigos is an international, nonprofit organization that was founded in 1965 and has 40 years of experience in facilitating community development programs. We train and provide opportunities for high school and college students to participate in service projects in Latin America. We are dedicated to building partnerships to empower young leaders, advance community development, and strengthen multicultural understanding in the Americas.

Amizade - http://amizade.org/ Amizade encourages intercultural exploration and understanding through community-driven volunteer programs and service-learning programs.

AustraLearn - http://www.australearn.org AustraLearn provides college/university students with study abroad opportunities in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Students may participate in a semester or year abroad or earn an entire degree at one of more than 30 major universities. There are also opportunities to participate in a high quality internship in Australia or New Zealand or a January term or summer abroad program.

Bridges to Community www.Bridgestocommunity.org Locations: Four sites in Nicaragua: Masaya, Guanacastillo, Ticuantepe, and Siuna. Offers educational, service-oriented trips to materially poor areas with already established and ongoing programs. College and high school students, temple and church groups, business leaders and corporate teams, families, friends, neighbors, and more. Depending on the site and interest of one’s group, one could be involved in construction, medical/public health, or environmental conservation projects. Most trips are 9 days long including orientation. Appears to be very flexible. Cost: $1075 for a standard 8-10 day trip to Nicaragua. Spanish is not required

CARE – www.care.org CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. We place special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. Women are at the heart of CARE’s community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of HIV, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources. CARE also delivers emergency aid to survivors of war and natural disasters, and helps people rebuild their lives.

Chacha Medical Spanish Institute www.chachamsi.com Location: Ecuador, An immersion language program for senior level pre-medical students, PA and medical students, resident doctors, and practitioners, Spanish curriculum, opportunity to take classes on alternative medicine. Classes are 1 – 10 individuals/instructor depending on time of year, Shadowing health care professionals in hospitals and clinics. Cost: about $1700 for a 4 week stay depending on what housing option is chosen.

Child Family Health International www.cfhi.org Focus: sustainable health care for the underserved, Service-learning program for medical students, nursing students, and pre-medical students. Includes clinical rotations and information sessions. Locations: 21 programs in 6 countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, India, Mexico, Nicaragua, and South Africa, Topics range from
Women's Reproductive Health to Communicable Diseases Specific for location Programs typically 4 – 8 weeks long; home stays strongly encouraged. Cost: about $1900 for four weeks. Must be 21 years of age to participate (for liability issues) can be undergraduate. Limited number of scholarships available, academic credit can be arranged.

Cross-Cultural Solutions - http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/ CCS's mission is to operate volunteer programs around the world in partnership with sustainable community initiatives, bringing people together to work side-by-side while sharing perspectives and fostering cultural understanding. We are an international not-for-profit organization with no political or religious affiliations.

Explorations in Travel - http://www.volunteertravel.com/ Our belief at Explorations in Travel is that there is lots that needs to be done to make the world a better place. No one person can do everything, but each of us can do something. We need to find something that moves us and act on it. The projects that you'll find on our site were started by people who saw a need and acted on it, by; starting a school, creating a reserve, building an animal shelter, growing organic food, etc.

Global Health Corps - http://www.globalhealthcorps.org/ The University of Northern Iowa established the Global Health Corps in 1996 as a field-based training program to enhance the professional preparation of post-secondary students in the area of cross-cultural community health.

Global Health Education Consortium www.globalhealth-ec.org/ GHEC is an association of faculty and health care educators that are committed to global health education in North American health professions schools and residency programs. Coordinates with global health course projects. Holds annual and regional conferences. Great resource for global health education.

Global Medical Brigades www.medicalbrigades.co Locations: Various, current focus is in Central America. International network of university and volunteer organizations, travel to communities to provide health care. Affiliated with Sociedad Amigos de los Niños and Hope for Honduran Children Foundation. Groups of student volunteers and medical professionals. Cost: $550 for one week trip. To participate in Global Medical Brigades: 1. Organize a club at college or university and get a faculty advisor, gain access to GMB website, information, etc. 2. Choose a week for trip 3. Recruit volunteers at an information session 5-7 months in advance. 4. Recruit medical professionals (80% doctors are friends/family of students) 5. Collect medicines, plan trip, etc.

Global Medical Training www.gmtonline.org Costa Rica and Panama, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Yucatan, Mexico. Nonprofit organization based in Costa Rica. Focused on the education of undergraduate students. 50% time spent in clinics (hands on experience is stressed), supervised by bilingual physicians; other time is spent traveling, in informational presentations, learning about culture. Length of trip: 9 to 12 days. Cost: $1,200-$1,700 depending on length of trip and location.
Global Service Corps - http://www.globalservicecorps.org/ Global Service Corps (GSC) is a nonprofit international volunteer organization providing service-learning opportunities for people worldwide to live and work abroad in Thailand and Tanzania.

Global Volunteers - http://www.globalvolunteers.org/ At the request of local leaders and indigenous host organizations, Global Volunteers sends teams of volunteers to live and work with local people on human and economic development projects identified by the community as important to its long-term development. Our trained volunteer coordinators will help you select a service program that suits your abilities and interests. Volunteer projects on health care do not seem open to pre-medical students, only those with clinical experience including medical students, nurses, physicians, and mental health workers. Other projects include: tutoring, teaching English, caring for disabled or orphaned children.

Global Volunteer Network - http://www.volunteer.org.nz/ The Global Volunteer Network (GVN) is a private nonprofit based in Wellington, New Zealand. GVN currently has volunteer positions available through partner organizations in China, Ecuador, Ghana, Nepal, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Thailand and Uganda. Their vision is to support the work of local community organizations in developing countries through the placement of international volunteers.

HealthCare Volunteer www.healthcarevolunteer.com HealthCare Volunteer, is a free, non-profit resource portal for all individuals seeking a health related volunteer or work position. Excellent resource. HealthCare Search – offers searches by location, description, language requirements, and affiliation with undergraduate university, medical school, dental school, etc.

Himalayan Health Exchange www.himalayanchannel.com Location: Indo-Tibet Borderlands. Service and adventure oriented. Anthropology Field Expeditions are independent summer study sessions for pre-medical, medical, and graduate students; topics include medical anthropology, public health, sociology. Project Heart: Individuals with rheumatic heart disease are flown to India for heart valve replacements or repairs, sponsored by Himalayan Health Exchange and sometimes by team members and their families. In 2004, team of surgeons and cardiologists brought care closer to people; next step is to create a permanent facility. Expeditions: Group of 36 individuals, usually including one dentist, one ophthalmologist, and four to six physicians with varying specialties. The remaining spots are filled with medical or dental students, nurses and non-health care support personnel. Set up health camps, work side by side local health care professionals while maintaining a "professional respect for the local health care delivery system as well as any religious or cultural customs associated with illness and health." Average 20 - 28 days. In addition to Himalayan Health Exchange's short-term health care expeditions, it also has an extended program for medical, dental, research, public health and nursing students – immediately after or before already scheduled expedition. Base project around needs of community; focus on preventive medicine and public health education. Average of 14 - 19 days, can be designed for 4 - 5 weeks.

i-to-i - http://www.i-to-i.com/ i-to-i provides TEFL training (Teach English as a Foreign Language) for travelers and recruits international volunteers to teach English, work in
conservation and community development, or gain experience in media, medicine or business. Programs run from 2 weeks to 6 months.

**Idealist.org** [http://www.idealist.org/](http://www.idealist.org/) Idealist.org lists over 32,000 nonprofit and community organizations in 153 countries, which you can search or browse by name, location or mission. It also lists volunteer opportunities in your community and around the world, and a list of organizations that can help you volunteer abroad. Additionally, it has a Nonprofit Career Center, with hundreds of job and internship listings.

**Info Nepal** [http://www.info nepal.org/index.html](http://www.info nepal.org/index.html) INFO’s mission is to provide volunteers with a customized program that will enable them to make an important contribution to the people of Nepal, while gaining an in-depth experience of Nepal’s language and culture, that will stay with the volunteers for the rest of their lives.

**International Alliance in Service and Education** [www.iaseco.org](http://www.iaseco.org) Three locations: America, Mexico, and South Africa. Open to students (did not indicate exactly what students but it seems to be primarily medical students and graduate students, and maybe undergrads, too) with a focus in clinical health, public health, education, business, international policies, or environmental issues. Does not consider itself a “volunteer program”. Students attend on-site language classes, seminars, and community research projects; students are evaluated at the end of the program. Organizes programs in response to needs of community. Both international programs focus on health and education in the area of primary care, public health community-based research projects, mental and chronic disease management, nutrition, tropical and infectious diseases, and topics and services that are relevant and identified by the local community. The Workplace English Literacy Program in the U.S. is designed for immigrants; offers a comprehensive English literacy course

**International Federation of Medical Students’ Association – United States of America** [www.IFMSA-USA.org](http://www.IFMSA-USA.org) Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda Village Concept Project (VCP) - a specific type of Village Project created by the IFMSA with the World Health Organization Projects are completely student-designed and run. Undergrad students, medical students, and working professionals. Uganda Village Project - areas of focus include healthcare, HIV/AIDS, orphan support, and clean water. The Malaika Project (Tanzania) - programs include a clinic, malaria prevention, teaching, and microenterprise. Volunteer Kenya - programs include healthcare, HIV/AIDS, education, and microenterprise. Ghana Health and Education Initiative - areas of focus include reproductive health and education

**International Medical Volunteers Association** [www.imva.org](http://www.imva.org) Database of organizations looking for medical personnel to carry out humanitarian missions. Search for “undergrad” and “pre-med” produced only one organization: Projects Abroad. Two organizations that allow pre-clinical medical students: Amigos de las Americas and Volunteers in Medical Missions

**International Opportunities in Medical Education** [www.faimer.org/resources/opportunities/index.html](http://www.faimer.org/resources/opportunities/index.html) FAIMER, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and the Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC, formerly the International Health Medical Education Consortium) have joined together to collect information
about international activities at U.S. allopathic medical schools. FAIMER: Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research. For medical students, residents, and faculty – international opportunities offered by medical schools throughout the country

International Partnership for Service-Learning - http://www.ipsl.org/ Offered in 14 countries, IPS-L programs unite academic study and volunteer service, giving students a fully integrated study abroad experience. By studying at a local university and serving 15-20 hours per week in a school, orphanage, health clinic or other agency addressing human needs, students find their knowledge of the host culture - and of themselves - take on greater depth and meaning.

International Scholar Laureate Program www.scholarlaureate.org/gk.cfm Delegation on Medicine in Australia, China, India or South Africa Australia: focus on workings of a universal health care system and how medical professionals collaborate to provide patient care. China: focus on collaboration of western medical science and traditional Chinese healing. India: focus on influence of culture and alternative medicine in a growing industrial nation. South Africa: focus on the challenges of caring for large proportion of population with HIV/AIDS. Length of program: 11 – 13 days with additional three - four day Add-Ons (trips)Cost: $5,120; Add-ons: $1,320 - $1,720. Very limited number of scholarships available

International Service Learning www.islonline.org Information: provide educational opportunities for students while providing services for developing countries. Locations: Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Trinidad), Mexico, and Africa (Tanzania). Tailored to suit needs at hand; works in full coordination with local health officials. Length of program ranges from 9 to 17 days. Cost: $1000 to $1800 depending on length of stay and location

International Volunteer Programs Association www.volunteerinternational.org Search by geographical location, country, or type of volunteer work

Med Spanish www.medspanish.com Locations: Guanajuato Mexico (San Miguel and Dolores Hidalgo), La Paz /Todos Santos Baja California, Acapulco, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador, and Argentina. Open to medical students, residents, and attending physicians (credit for continuing medical education). Pre-med program – completion of an Emergency First Responder course required before the first summer. Programs stresses language acquisition (beginner to advanced), cultural competence, and international health experience; clinically and total-immersion based. Online MedSpanish classes available before and after rotations While on the trip, Spanish lessons are two hours every day, five days a week, and use a series of textbooks developed for the Foreign Service of the U.S. State Department. Cost: $2,950 for pre-medical; $1950 for one month for 1st and 2nd medical students

Organic Sustainable Integrated Livelihoods www.oursoil.org SOIL is a new non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers that supports research and implementation of community-based approaches to soil fertility, erosion control, and water source protection in Haiti Promotes the connection between livelihood, well-being, health, and the soil. "Our goal is to promote integrated approaches to the problems of poverty, public health, agricultural productivity, and environmental destruction developed through collaborative relationships between community
organizations in Haiti and academics and activists internationally." Seems to be fairly new, really grassroots; unclear on how to volunteer and get involved

**Peace Corps** - [http://www.peacecorps.gov/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/) Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and business development, and committing more than 1,000 new Volunteers as a part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

**Power Up Gambia** - [http://www.powerupgambia.org/](http://www.powerupgambia.org/) It's all about power and light. With the installation of solar panels, the Sulayman Jungkung General Hospital will have a reliable power supply to provide clean running water, power to run incubators, use electronic microscopes, and perform surgeries, day or night, when needed. Refrigeration means vaccines can be safely stored and a blood bank can be established. The hands of the hospital's staff are tied without solar panels to provide critically-needed power.

**Project Medishare** [www.projectmedishare.org](http://www.projectmedishare.org) Locations in Haiti: Thomonde, Cange, and Port-au-Prince. Medical trips program in Thomonde has affiliations with the following affiliations: University of Miami School of Medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine and School of Public Health, Emory University School of Medicine, and The Mayo Clinic School of Medicine. Specialty surgery program in Cange was started by University of Miami medical students, run by Zanmi Lasante (Partners-in-Health program in Haiti). Specialty surgery program in Port-au-Prince has affiliation with Miami Children's Hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Centre de Santé Bernard Mevs, STEM Ministries, Healing Hands for Haiti and Centre d'imagerie.

Accept monetary donations as well as stock donations, airline miles, automobiles, medical Medishare coordinates trips for groups of medical students, doctors, nurses and other health professionals to communities in Haiti. Special surgery programs: volunteer surgeons, nurses and medical students perform surgeries at the only full-service hospital which is run by Zanmi Lasante did not state whether or not it is open to pre-medical students.

**SOS Children's Villages** - [http://www.sos-usa.org/](http://www.sos-usa.org/) SOS is an international nonprofit organization building homes and communities for orphaned and abandoned children. We have 456 villages in 132 countries, and have been operating around the world for more than 60 years. In addition to providing loving homes for these children, we work in the community to provide education, health care, vocational training, and family strengthening. SOS Children's Villages has a long-standing role providing emergency relief as well.

**Spanish Medical** [www.spanish-medical.com](http://www.spanish-medical.com) Spanish immersion and shadowing program open to pre-medical and medical students, nurses, paramedics, and physicians. Cuernavaca, Mexico; Antigua, Guatemala; Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina Spanish classes are six students or less, private lessons are also offered. Shadowing is two times a week for up to four hours per session. Intermediate level Spanish required. Cost: about $300 to $400 per week for housing, tuition, medical shadowing depending on location. Private lessons cost [extra_medicomundo.org](http://extra_medicomundo.org) is hoping to begin offering scholarships soon.
Unite for Sight www.uniteforsight.org Multiple sites in Ghana and India Programs open to undergraduate and medical students, public health students and professionals, optometrists, ophthalmologists, ophthalmology residents, nurses Some locations require completion of one year of graduate school Volunteers may observe surgeries and assist (depending on experience), record visual acuity, take patient histories, recognize common eye disease, participate in school screening programs and outreach programs Length of trips are generally 10 to 15 stays but participants can combine dates and participate in more than one session Board at a bed and breakfast, or home of ophthalmologists Cost: about $200+ per week depending on location

United Planet www.unitedplanet.org Short and long term opportunities in 50 countries combining volunteering, language learning, learning excursions, and cultural awareness. Volunteer experiences focus on HIV/AIDS education, teaching, and healthcare education

USC Somos Hermanos www.somoshermanos.org/program_fees.htm Primarily for students who have completed their undergraduate education and are taking a year off before going to medical school or another type of health care graduate school Language immersion program lasting 6 months All participants volunteer and shadow in a clinic or hospital for a minimum of 1 to 2 weeks Additional volunteer opportunities: outreach health education; nutrition education; sexual health and HIV/AIDS education; hospital patient companion program; after-school health education; school, health clinic, and home construction. Field trips, activities, and lectures. Cost: $5,500 for six months

Visions in Action - http://www.visionsinaction.org/ Visions in Action is committed to achieving social and economic justice in the developing world through grassroots programs and communities of self-reliant volunteers.

VolunteerInternational - http://www.volunteerinternational.org/ The International Volunteer Programs Association (IVPA) is an alliance of non-governmental organizations involved in international volunteer work and internship exchanges.

World Teach - http://www.worldteach.org/ WorldTeach is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides opportunities for individuals to make a meaningful contribution to international education by living and working as volunteer teachers in developing countries.

Note: In reporting costs, airfare is not included.

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

Fulbright - http://www.fulbrightonline.org/ Established in 1946, the Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills.

Mabelle Arole Fellowship www.amsea.org/resource/mabelle.cfm One U.S. citizen or permanent resident who has been accepted to medical school but who is willing to defer. acceptance for one year will be accepted to this year-long program based in Jamkhed, India
Learn about community-based health programming in India, a developing country. Begins with a 2-month course on community-based primary health care. Includes in-patient and out-patient and in the field experience, and work on a project, depending on current CRHP activities and needs and fellow’s interest. The fellow will receive a stipend of $8000 in quarterly payments, which covers housing, living expenses, and travel, including airfare to and from India.

Rhodes Scholars - [http://www.rhodesscholar.org/](http://www.rhodesscholar.org/) Intellectual distinction is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for election to a Rhodes Scholarship. Selection committees are charged to seek excellence in qualities of mind and in qualities of person which, in combination, offer the promise of effective service to the world in the decades ahead. The Rhodes Scholarships, in short, are investments in individuals rather than in project proposals. Accordingly, applications are sought from talented students without restriction as to their field of academic specialization or career plans although the proposed course of study must be available at Oxford, and the applicant's undergraduate program must provide a sufficient basis for further study in the proposed field. Through the years, Rhodes Scholars have pursued studies in all of the varied fields available at the University of Oxford.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

ServiceLeader - [http://www.serviceleader.org](http://www.serviceleader.org) ServiceLeader.org is a project of the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

Transitions Abroad - [http://www.transitionsabroad.com/](http://www.transitionsabroad.com/) This magazine and website is a guide to volunteer, work and study abroad, immersion travel overseas and international living.

VolunteerAbroad - [http://www.volunteerabroad.com](http://www.volunteerabroad.com) Search engine for volunteer opportunities.


www.amsa.org/global/ih/ihres.cfm Lists programs, web sites and resources for overseas opportunities.

[www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int) Links to maps and reports on health conditions around the world.

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