

# Medical Student Exchange Program:

## Why was this program developed?

While travelling as a medical student in Ecuador, South America, Dr. Evaleen Jones saw many parallels between health issues in developing countries and in the medically underserved in the United States. She also realized that speaking Spanish was a very useful skill for primary care physicians. To encourage and facilitate U.S. medical students to work abroad and learn Spanish, she created Child Family Health International.

## Who is this program for?

### Academic Training Requirements

The program is designed for students who have a comfortable level of Spanish language proficiency\* and the following academic training:

- Medical Students, all levels
- Masters of Public Health Students (for periods of 4-6 months minimum)
- Medical Residents

\* Students with minimal language abilities are accepted with the provision that the emphasis of their program experience will be directed to Spanish language training.

## What opportunities does this program offer

- **Community Oriented Primary Care / Rural Clinics**  
Students are placed in one of several Andean Mountain district clinics where they are involved with direct patient care, including completion of medical histories and examinations, physical diagnosis, and treatment plans. Participation in the clinics also exposes students to preventive services, including nutrition, immunizations, dental education, prenatal care, and water sanitation.
- **The Cinterandes Mobile Surgical Facility**  
Students may participate in a variety of activities of the Mobile Surgical Facility (MSF) designed, constructed, and shipped to Ecuador by Child Family Health International. This 24 foot surgical suite is operated by Dr. Edgar Rodas, our program director in Cuenca, Ecuador. The MSF travels throughout the Andean Rain Forest providing free surgery to families unable to travel to the metropolitan areas for medical treatment.
- **University of Cuenca School of Medicine and the University Hospital**  
Depending on the University calendar, students may participate on morning rounds, attend lectures and present clinical topics to their Ecuadorian peers at the University of Cuenca School of Medicine.
- **Research Opportunities**  
Mini research projects can be arranged for interested students. Projects will be designed to support larger ongoing research programs of Child Family Health International.

- **Spanish Language Training**  
Participants need a comfortable level of Spanish proficiency to communicate with patients. If you feel you need to improve your Spanish speaking skills, we can direct you to private tutorial sessions and language schools that will accommodate your clinical schedule.
- **Cross-Cultural Benefits**  
Integrated in the clinical training are the personal benefits gained by immersing yourself in another culture. Homestays and daily activities such as shopping, transportation, and eating become valued and memorable experiences.
- **Travel Excursions** Experience the rich demographic and geographic diversity of Ecuador's Andean Mountains, Amazon Jungle, Pacific Coast and Galapagos Islands. Discounted travel fares and excursions are available for those who have extra time.

### When and Where?

- **Program Schedule**  
Clinical clerkships are available almost year-round. Students can tailor the program length and schedule to accommodate their academic calendar. A one month minimum enrollment is required.
  - **Program Sites**
    1. The University of Cuenca Hospital and the MSF are located in the beautiful provincial city of Cuenca cradled in the Andean Mountains, 7,800 feet above sea-level. Clinical work occurs in rural health centers of poor and indigenous communities surrounding Cuenca.
    2. The University in the majestic city of Quito Ecuador offers clinical experiences at several major hospitals and health clinics for the urban poor.
  - **Program Costs**

Application Fee	\$25
Program Fee	\$750 /first month
Additional Months	\$500 per additional month
  - **Optional Costs**

Homestay	\$300 / month
Language Training	\$4-8 /hour
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