

La Union School, San Hermano Pedro Hospital
Antigua, Guatemala

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My primary aim in designing my abroad experience was to learn medical Spanish. I decided to go to Guatemala because a friend had recently gone for learning medical Spanish and recommended it for the experience, and for it being inexpensive. I was able to just set up classes at a language school over email. I went for February and March and the weather was excellent. The name of the school is La Union, email: launion.@conexion.com, webpage: launion.conexion.com. I got credit for this as a reading elective.

As the end of the month neared, I couldn't make myself leave so I changed my ticket and stayed another month. For that month, I started working at the city charity hospital – San Hermano Pedro Hospital, Antigua. The hospital staff was very welcoming and let me do as much as I was comfortable with. I saw patients (speaking only in Spanish) in the general medicine outpatient clinic for 2 weeks and then the last 2 weeks I assisted in the Ophthalmology clinic and OR. In the evenings, I continued to take Spanish lessons. The one thing I should have done is taken some supplies for the hospital. They accept anything we can take over there.

I would very highly recommend the Spanish school and the hospital to all med students. During the two months I learned Spanish, salsa, traveled all over Guatemala and to Honduras, met some awesome people from various countries, and made contacts to pursue my interest in International Health. I plan on going back as soon as I get the chance.