Health Internships

Health-related internship placements include a range of health specializations where participants can gain real-world experience through performing tasks in various departments, shadowing seasoned professionals, participating in community outreach and conducting research. Interns will gain first-hand experience with diverse practices and health care systems. Interns will depart with a new understanding of how culture influences the practice of medicine, providing interns with valuable preparation for a career in the health field. Clinical placements are very limited and only available to those applicants with the appropriate educational background and experience.

Reasons to Intern Abroad

- Apply classroom education to real-world experience
- Experience health systems and practice from a new perspective and learn about region-specific health issues
- Refine area of focus within the larger health field
- Boost resume in order to stand out when applying to medical school
- Gain a better understanding of global health issues needing to be addressed by the medical community as a whole rather than by individual countries

Ideal Candidates

- Education or interest and experience in: Anatomy, Biology, Dentistry, Dietetics, Health Administration, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Public Health
- Understand the limitations that exist abroad related to the type of technical work in which the applicant is qualified to perform
- Are willing to complete both technical tasks and business development responsibilities
- Are able to provide a clear criminal background check if required
- Have some language proficiency in the host country language

Typical Tasks

- Shadow professionals
- Develop training materials
- Conduct community outreach and health education
- Organize appointments and prepare medical examinations
- Patient interaction through interviews, follow-up conversations, and general support
- Research
- Assist with office administrative tasks

Recommended Sites

ISA recommends Australia, Chile, China, New Zealand and Spain for health-related internships. Due to visa regulations, placements in the health field are not possible in Seoul, South Korea.
HEALTH SAMPLE PLACEMENTS

Insync Youth Service Beenleigh - Anglicare, Southern Queensland, Australia

Social Work Intern

Spiritus Youth Accommodation & Support Services (BYASS) provides young people, male and female, aged 16 to 17, and their families with support during times of crisis. The aim is to provide quality service and a holistic response to young people who are at risk of homelessness. The intern will provide support to constituents by being involved in projects to empower at-risk youth during times of crisis.

Aboriginal Health Council of WA, Western Australia, Australia

Public Health Intern

AHCWA comprises Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organizations, which are multi-functional primary health care delivery services that operate in defined geographic territories that have Aboriginal community recognition under a management structure that is accountable to, and controlled by, the Aboriginal people in those geographic territories. The scope of primary health care delivery services varies from community to community.

Child Think Pty Ltd., Rose Bay, Australia

Speech Pathology Intern

Child Think Pty Ltd is an Australia-wide Speech, Language, and Literacy practice. Staff includes many experienced Speech and Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists who provide clinic-based services, as well as home and school visits. The intern will assist with speech pathology therapy sessions, the support of administrative tasks and updating medical records and assessments.

Westside Dermatology, Taringa, Australia

Dermatology Intern

Westside Dermatology is Queensland’s largest group of specialist dermatologists. They combine extensive specialist training and experience with the latest in technology to cater for a range of skin conditions from rashes, skin cancer to cosmetic and laser dermatology. The intern will be observing laser treatments, minor operations, and cosmetic treatments. The intern will also be assisting with day-to-day office administrative tasks.

Sports Medicine Australia, Brisbane, Australia

Sports Medicine

Sports Medicine Australia is Australia’s peak national umbrella body for sports medicine and sports science and is widely acknowledged overseas as the world’s leading multi-disciplinary sports medicine body. The intern will assist with the administration and delivery of SMA programs and coordination of medical coverage to major sporting events. Additionally, the intern will shadow health professionals and sports trainers in action at sporting events and in clinical settings.

Fundación Nuestros Hijos, Santiago, Chile

Social Work Intern

The intern will assist social workers in creating art therapy and recreational therapy activities for low-income children diagnosed with cancer. The intern can develop his or her own plan and design activities and strategies to assist with children’s functionality and shadow practitioners to learn new techniques.

St. Michael Hospital, Shanghai, China

Health Intern

St. Michael Hospital is an International Hospital located in Chang Ning District (Gubei area) serving a large community of expatriates and locals since 2007. The intern will spend time in the hospital shadowing medical doctors and assisting as need or permitted.
Shanghai United Family Hospital and Clinics, Shanghai, China  
*Health Intern*  
United Family Healthcare is a pioneering, international standard healthcare organization in China whose mission is to provide comprehensive, integrated healthcare services in a uniquely warm and caring patient and family service-oriented environment. The intern will shadow nurses and doctors by spending a few weeks dedicated to several different departments included the International Medical Care Center, cardiology, surgery, and outpatient departments.

Goldsmiths, University of London, London, England  
*Cognitive Research Intern*  
The research project is concerned with the executive control of memory and how this relates to identity and the social world. The intern will look at social factors, such as forgiveness, and understand how this impacts memory performances. He/she will also assist in collecting data, transcribing, recording memories and maintaining clinical documentation via electronic record keeping systems.

Odyssey House, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Youth Services Intern*  
Odyssey House treats New Zealand adults and adolescents with serious substance abuse, gambling, and other associated problems. The intern will provide support to young people within the residential program. There will be supported opportunities for direct work with youth and by participation in therapeutic group work.

Living Cells Technologies, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Biomedical Engineering Intern*  
Living Cells Technologies focuses on cell-based therapeutics and the development of insulin producing cells in microcapsules for the treatment of type 1 Diabetes. Part of the team to encapsulate cells, the intern will acquire general knowledge and practical experience with the cell and material selection, assessment of the devices used for encapsulation and oversight of product quality.

Hospitales Vinalopó Salud, Valencia, Spain  
*Healthcare Intern*  
The intern will assist in patient care, working with the diagnostic and treatment of pathologies, and following the guidelines of the tutor of the internship at the hospital. The tasks and responsibilities of the intern include: taking daily patient attendance at the hospital or health center, the evaluations of tests and examinations, and the establishment of treatments and follow-up.

Hospital Universitario de la Ribera, Valencia, Spain  
*Nursing Intern*  
The Hospital Universitario de la Ribera is the first practical example of a successful public health service management model in Spain. It’s based on a model, which includes strategic partnerships between a group of strong companies (UTE Ribera Salud) - formed by Adeslas, Ribera Salud, and Lubasa - Dragados and the Generalitat Valenciana, with the aim of providing new solutions to the public health sector. The intern would collaborate in attending to patients at the hospital, working with the diagnostic and treatment of pathologies, and following the guidelines of the internship tutor at the hospital.

Dr. Antonio Marco Chover, Health Centre, Valencia, Spain  
*Health Intern*  
The medical clinic provides patients with varying symptoms and needs with natural, integrative and orthomolecular treatments. The intern will attend to patients in their supervisor, learn patient control, auscultation, and learn how to do intravenous and intramuscular injections alongside their supervisor.