



SALUD Dominican Republic

Healthcare in the Dominican Republic Today

Important Note:

The following schedule of activities is subject to change and substitution. In order for you to get the most out of the lectures and service learning experience, you should be at least a **middle intermediate level** Spanish speaker (approximately 5 semesters of Spanish in college, or 4 years of high school Spanish). If you are currently at a level below mid-intermediate, you may still apply, but we strongly recommend that you also register for at least an additional 3 weeks of classes prior to the start of the SALUD program.

Although clinical observation experiences tend to be mostly shadowing, they may vary from strictly observational/shadowing to more hands on. The amount of hands on work you do during your clinical observation component will depend on your current language and medical skills as well as the organization's needs and your ability to integrate. **It is important to remember that you are not licensed in the host country.**

Week #1

Sunday

Arrive to Santo Domingo and transfer to host family.

Monday

08:45	Arrive to school for orientation and placement exam.
09:00-10:30	Spanish Classes
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	Spanish Classes
13:30-14:00	City orientation tour through Santo Domingo (no cost)
14:30-15:30	Private lessons for Medical Terminology (PLEASE NOTE: Times are approximate)

Tuesday - Friday

09:00-10:30	Spanish Classes
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:30	Spanish Classes
14:30-15:30	Private lessons for Medical Terminology

Please note: Activities are organized 2-3 afternoons per week. Activities may vary. They are held at least twice a week, usually in the afternoon after classes. For example: Salida Pedagogica with all students into the city (visiting museums, historical buildings etc. about 5-10 USD); Movie in the Cinemateca Nacional (about 5 USD); Visit Restaurants and Bars in the Zona Colonial (about 10-15 USD); Dancing to live music (Son & Merengue) at the Bar Las Palmas of the exclusive 5-star hotel "Santo Domingo" (free entry).

Saturday - Sunday

Free weekend (Organized excursions available at an additional cost)

Week #2

Monday - Friday

09:00-13:00	Clinical Observation at one of 6 different major hospitals and several smaller clinics (public and private), located all over Santo Domingo, where they train foreign medical and nursing students. They have already many years of experience in working with foreign, mainly US medical students and have set up an elaborate training system. Students may get credits for their work in the D.R., and hence the organization provides them with a Certificate of Participation in the Clinical Training or Surgery, etc. (Hours are approximate and subject to change on-site)
Afternoon:	Free

Please budget \$8-15 per day for transportation to the projects.

Specifics

Students are selected according to their level of medical knowledge. If the students are in pre-med or first year of medicine, they will be taught basic things - like use of stethoscope, about diseases, lab reports, etc. They will learn a lot at the hospitals from their preceptors. The organization sometimes also accepts non-medical volunteers who want to experience or serve in a hospital. The organization then plans their training based on their age, education, experience and what they like to do.

The doctor in charge has been a Dean of Clinical Sciences for more than 20 years and has multifold experience in training medical students. He is personally involved in the trainings but they have many doctors who work as preceptors. Sometimes they also take students on operative medical missions to the bateys or to small towns outside of Santo Domingo.

Students and Requirements:

1. The medical students need to send in a **copy of their school transcript**, which tells what the students have studied thus far. This is necessary in order to give the organization an idea of what assignments they can make and how qualified the students are to handle a patient in the emergency room, surgery room, delivery room or on the hospital floor.

If the students are unable to provide a transcript, they need to **prepare a paper**, in an essay form, what they know or feel qualified to do.

2. Students will need to sign a **form with a liability clause** on his/her first program day as a protection for both sides.
3. Under the new seguro social laws in the DR, it is mandatory for all doctors to carry **malpractice insurance**. Even though the medical volunteers are students, they are helping treat patients and are called doctors in the clinics. Therefore, the organization asks the student to hand in a copy of their malpractice insurance policy. Every medical school has such a policy and they would give the student/organization a copy. The student has to send in this document prior to program start.

In case students cannot provide the copy of their school's malpractice insurance, it is possible to add the student to the organization's policy but the cost is US\$100 for one day or one year. There is no short-term plan to be found in the DR so far.

4. The students are also asked to **bring their lab coat and at least a stethoscope**. They are expected to wear dress pants or something more professional; they will not be allowed in jeans. Surgical scrubs are also fine but they must always be neat, clean and professionally dressed.
5. In case where the organization will place students with a public hospital, the organization needs to get written permission from Salud Publica and a security clearance. Some hospitals prefer to issue them a photo-badge also. Therefore, the students need to **send their photo** prior to program start (digital or scanned photo is fine).
6. Donations of cash, medical equipment, clinical supplies, medical books or drugs are welcome. A receipt for tax purposes can be issued.

Getting There

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to the Dominican Republic. We recommend Exito Travel (http://www.amerispan.com/study_abroad_airfare.asp). If you opted to stay with a host family, you will be picked up at the airport. Otherwise, you are responsible to make your own way to your own lodging. Students should plan to arrive to Santo Domingo on Sunday, and depart on Sunday. If participants need to arrive a few days earlier or stay a few days later, this is possible at an additional per day cost.

Re-Cap of What's Included

- 1 week 4 hrs/day group classes (20 hrs/wk)
- Private room
- 2 meals daily during classes (breakfast and dinner). Choice of location during placement including either half board or beach access (location request depending upon availability).
- Clinical observation
- Orientation tour and materials
- Airport pick-up in Santo Domingo
- Travel Assistance Program
- Emergency message service

Options (available at an extra cost)

- Extend classes (min. 1 week extension)
- Extend placement (min. 1 week extension)

Suggested Donations (optional)

- Gloves
- Hair Nets
- Booties
- Sterile Gauze Pads
- Band-Aids
- Stethoscopes
- Suture Kits
- Gowns
- LP Kits
- Used Eyeglasses
- Vitamins (like Centrum multi-vitamins)
- Aspirin, Ranitidine or other non-prescription drugs (small amounts)
- Cell Phones

Required Wardrobe

- Scrubs or white lab coat
- Stethoscope