Clinical Opportunities: International Experiences

China California Heart Watch

UCSB MedLife

Global experiences can be very helpful in preparing you to work in a diverse healthcare environment, but here are important guidelines to follow to ensure that you don’t put your future as a healthcare professional at risk. “If you can’t do it here, you shouldn't do it there either.” Some examples include: delivering a baby, prescribing medicine, pulling teeth or participating in clinical procedures. If admissions committees find out that you have engaged in these activities, your acceptance could be in jeopardy—some schools may rescind their offer if you have been admitted as your actions show a lack of ethical principles.

Before participating in a health-related experience abroad, read the AAMC Guidelines for Premedical and Medical Students Providing Patient Care During Clinical Experiences Abroad and the ADEA Guidelines for Predental Students Providing Patient Care During Clinical Experiences Abroad.

The University Of Minnesota Global Health Ambassadors for Patient Safety Workshop (GAPS online workshop) is a good way to prepare what you need to know when seeking health experiences internationally. UMN also has an interactive tutorial on “Learning Ethically While Abroad.”

The Forum on Education Abroad has guidelines for undergraduate health related programs abroad.

Global Activities by Students at Pre-Health Levels (GASP) has additional resources about best practice standards in health-related settings abroad for undergraduate students.

Study abroad can be a profoundly valuable experience, but we recommend that you start planning early and explore all your options with the EAP Office (South Hall 2431) in addition to speaking to your Department and College Academic Advisors. UC Education Abroad offers Public and Global Health Programs too.