
Panama International Program

March 9-17, 2024

General Information:

An international program for students has been planned for Panama for course and/or clinical credit for TTUHSC students. Designation of course credit will be dependent upon the individual student's program of study.

Proposed educational activities include the following:

- Participants will conduct community health assessments and other public health activities to learn more about the community and assess health priorities and needs.
- Participants will provide primary care in a medically underserved community in Panama. Participants will see both adult and pediatric patients. Patient care will include a focus on child wellness and developmental care, preventative screening measures, primary care services, and health promotion activities.
- Participants will provide health education training on pre-determined health-related topics to community members and local community health workers (CHWs).
- Participants will attend educational sessions conducted by Global Medical Brigades staff to learn about the Panamanian healthcare system and Global Medical Brigades role in addressing health disparities.

This program will include a clinical immersion & community engagement component scheduled for March 9-15 and a cultural immersion component scheduled for March 16-17. All students are required to participate in the clinical and cultural components—both of which are considered part of the TTUHSC program.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance by Friday, January 19, 5:00 PM CT. A \$350 deposit is due to Global Medical Brigades by Friday, January 26. Full payment is due by Friday, February 23.

Please note: TTUHSC does not require students be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to participate in our international programs. Global Medical Brigades, our on-the-ground partner organization, currently does not require participants be vaccinated. Please be aware that the vaccination policy of Global Medical Brigades and vaccination requirements of the Panamanian government could change. If there are any changes, this information will be communicated by faculty leaders as quickly as possible.

Application:

The application for participation in the program can be found at:
<https://student.ttuhs.edu/global-health/gmbpanama.aspx>

Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible to participate in an International Program for Students, a person must be a student at the University. For the purposes of an International Program for Students, a student is defined as all persons taking courses at the University, either full-time or part-time, pursuing undergraduate, graduate or professional studies, specifically excluding School of Medicine House Staff. Persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term but who have a continuing relationship with the University or who have been notified of their acceptance may be considered students.

For the purposes of an International Program for Students, a person is considered to have a continuous relationship with the University if the person was enrolled at the University for the preceding semester and:

- Is registered or preregistered for the following semester; or
- If the person has not completed the person's degree program, is eligible to continue the degree program in the following semester; or
- If the person completed a degree program in the preceding semester and is admitted to another degree program at the University for the following semester.

In addition, person must be in good academic and disciplinary standing as determined by the person's school at the time the person applies for an International Program and at the time of the dates of travel. Good disciplinary standing is defined as relating to a student not currently on disciplinary probation; or, a student, whose disciplinary suspension, expulsion or conditions and/or restrictions imposed, if any, have been totally fulfilled in a timely manner.

Per TTUHSC OP 10.29, International Programs for Students, International Programs are part of a degree program. As such, schools will determine course credit being awarded for an International Program in accordance with TTUHSC OP 60.05.

Withdrawal/Refunds:

TTUHSC is not liable for funds paid for travel to airlines or the host institution/organization or other fees of any kind or character related to the trip if a person is no longer eligible or can no longer participate in the international program. As such, the person is responsible for any and all financial losses that may be incurred.

More information will be provided to program participants about Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) Insurance.

Selection of Participants:

The TTUHSC faculty leaders will select approximately 20-30 students to participate. If necessary, a rubric will be utilized to determine participants from the applicant pool. Selected participants will be notified after eligibility has been determined (1-2 weeks after application close date). A wait list will be in effect if needed.

Cost:

The estimated cost for the trip is \$2,000 (includes all lodging, most meals, supplies, administrative costs, cultural excursion, and transportation while in Panama) + airfare + spending money.

Funding information can be found on the OGH website: <https://www.ttuhs.edu/global-health/funding.aspx>. Please note: for the Global Medical Brigades Panama program the due date for funding applications is being extended to January 30.

Team Meetings:

There will be 6 mandatory pre-trip planning meetings between January 22 and March 9, 2024, that all students are required to attend. Each meeting will be scheduled via Zoom and is anticipated to last approximately one hour.

Pre-departure Requirements:

All students selected to participate in the international program are expected to complete TTUHSC International Program pre-departure requirements. Additional information about the pre-departure requirements can be found at the TTUHSC Office of Global Health website: <https://www.ttuhs.edu/global-health/requirements.aspx>.

Trip Specific Questions:

Please contact Julie St. John, DrPH, MA, CHWI at julie.st-john@ttuhsc.edu or Molly Lee, MSN, RN at molly.lee@ttuhsc.edu.

General Questions about International Programs at TTUHSC:

Please contact the Office of Global Health at globalhealth@ttuhsc.edu.