ISA Service-Learning  
Valparaíso & Viña del Mar, Chile  
Medical Clinic  
Placement Description

**Student Profile:** This placement is best for students majoring in Pre-Medicine, Pre-Nursing and Health Science. This is a great placement for students interested in learning about foreign health care systems, or those interested in pursuing careers in the field of health care.

**Placement:** Medical Clinic  
**Program type:** Health Care  
**Language Level:** Advanced

**About the organization:** This clinic is a brand of La Corporación Municipal de Valparaíso para el Desarrollo Social and administers services with the Ministry of Education and Health, promoting reforms in both sectors. Their mission is, “To provide the best quality of life for the people of Valparaíso.” The clinic focuses on the following areas: basic healthcare, consultations, and group education. Their objectives are to reduce the number of preventable illnesses, malnutrition in adolescents, and the incidence of diarrhea and acute respiratory infections. They also seek to reduce the rate of infantile accidents, addictions that damage mental and physical health, and to assure diagnosis and effective treatment of patients.

**Potential Participant Responsibilities:** ISA Service-Learning participants at a public clinic will observe medical procedures and learn medical terminology, shadow doctors and medical staff, and learn about the healthcare system in another country. **To ensure patient safety, participants will not be allowed to assist in medical procedures.** Participants can also accompany clinic staff and paramedics to help provide social, educational and medical outreach in the community, as activities will vary from day to day. This placement is ideal for students attending medical school or in the nursing or pre-med fields.

**Sample Responsibilities from Past Participants:**

**DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:**
1. Sorted medical files in numerical order
2. Learned signs of normal development in babies of 3 months with pediatrician
3. Viewed blood tests of a patient who was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism

**DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:**
1. Cleaned room with alcohol in between patients
2. Folded gauze into smaller pieces for ulcer cleaning kits
3. Observed otolaryngologist as he performed routine ear cleanings
DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Ripped and folded sheets of paper for keeping patient beds clean
2. Accompanied a nurse on house visits
3. Helped create reminders for appointments

Tentative hours/schedule: After arriving, the in-country ISA Service-Learning coordinator will accompany you to the clinic, and you will discuss your responsibilities and schedule with your supervisor. Students that are participating in service-learning during their ISA semester will arrange their clinic hours around their ISA classes. Those that volunteer during an ISA academic program typically volunteer 5 to 10 hours a week. Students that are only participating in ISA Service-Learning will have the hours of 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Thursday, and 8:30am – 2:00pm on Friday. In the past, ISA Service-Learning stand-alone program participants have been able to volunteer 20 to 40 hours a week. Be aware that you will need to take public transportation to your assigned locations. The trip takes at least 40 minutes per ride, so be prepared to bring something along to read or to keep you busy on long bus rides.

Dress Code/Additional Information: All ISA Service Learning participants are expected to comport themselves professionally at their placement at all times. Although common in the U.S., wearing casual clothing such as gym shorts or flip flops may not be appropriate to wear in public abroad, and is especially discouraged in a professional setting. We recommend dressing conservatively at your placement introduction and throughout your first week until you get a better sense of the organization's standard dress code. Remember to take cues from your colleagues and dress accordingly. You are strongly encouraged to seek the opinion of the on-site staff on matters related to clothing during your on-site orientation.

All ISA Service-Learning participants working in a medical clinic in Chile will wear a white "delantal" or lab coat while working at their placement. This lab coat is easily purchased in Chile, and will cost approximately $20 USD. Typically, participants opt to use their project materials stipend included in their program cost in order to purchase their lab coat once on-site. Participants are expected to wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. You can wear jeans and sneakers and any sort of blouse or shirt under your delantal. Participants cannot wear any type of jewelry or accessories, like necklaces, rings, long earrings, etc. In addition, participants should not have their nails painted, and participants with long hair will need to tie their hair back. Remember to take cues from your colleagues at your placement and dress accordingly.

Important Information: Medical Clinic placements in Chile require an additional fee. Please contact your ISA Service-Learning Program Manager for more information. Each ISA Service-Learning experience is unique and requires personal initiative and self-motivation. Each participant’s assigned duties may change at the discretion of their on-site supervisor. By participating in this program you owe a commitment to your host organization. Non-committal behavior such as tardiness or acting irresponsibly may impact the organization’s decision to host future participants, and participants may be dismissed if they fail to adhere to the details outlined in the ISA Service-Learning Commitment Agreement. Key characteristics of a successful
participant are flexibility and an open mind, as well as a willingness to take the initiative and learn from mistakes.