



GLOBAL MEDICAL ACADEMY

Frequently Asked Questions

Can you tell me more about what I will be doing if I join the Global Medical Academy?

Students in the Global Medical Academy travel to either Belize or Panama to participate in a 9-day medical clinic in remote communities that lack basic healthcare. During this time, you will triage incoming patients, shadow local medical professionals as they conduct health, vision, and dental screenings, and lead educational “charlas” on proper hygiene practices. We also set aside time each evening for students to participate in cultural activities—an opportunity to learn about local traditions and practices. For a detailed breakdown of the GMA schedule, check out our 9-day itinerary [here](#).

How much does this program cost?

To cover costs of the clinic, your food, accommodation, and operations, the Global Medical Academy has an associated fee of **\$3590**. This fee includes your airfare and all expenses while on the program. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, this donation is tax deductible. We request that you put down a \$150 deposit as soon as possible to secure your space. The first installment, also due as soon as possible, is \$1200 and will be used to purchase your airfare. The second installment (\$1120) is due at least 45 days prior to departure and the third installment (\$1120) is due at least 15 days prior to departure. For questions about fundraising, don’t hesitate to ask us—we have the expertise and materials needed to help you reach your fundraising goals!

Is this safe?

The safety of students is Squads Abroad’s number one priority and is the single most important consideration when entering a community or choosing a project. Each country that Squads Abroad partners with has implemented safety protocols and policies to decrease any risk of danger and to ensure that any emergency can be properly handled in a prompt and professional manner. For more information on safety precautions, emergency procedures and insurance information, please visit the [Safety and Security](#) page on our website.

How are the flights booked?

Squads Abroad has an in-house travel agent that provides flight booking services. If you choose to book a flight through our travel agent, the cost of the flight will be confirmed with you and included in the total cost of the program. In addition, we offer an adult chaperoned group flight option from a US hub city, should students choose to have added assistance on the journey. Otherwise, students have the option to independently purchase their own flights that are scheduled to arrive anytime on the start date and depart anytime on the end date of the program.



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Where will I be staying?

Squads Abroad partners with private accommodation facilities to provide students with a safe home base to unwind after a day in the clinic. Students stay in gender specific rooms that accommodate up to 4 students each and have a private bathroom. Here, trained kitchen staff prepare delicious local dishes, keeping in mind student dietary restrictions. For more information on our facilities, visit our country pages for [Panama](#) and [Belize](#).

How do I register?

Once you decide which country and dates, you can register by filling out the [Global Medical Academy Chapter Registration Form](#).

Once you have filled out this form, we will send your promotional materials and more details about how to book your flights and organize your travel. We have an international team happy to help you throughout the process.

I want to do more than just watch a doctor. Will I actually be able to participate in the examination and discuss potential diagnosis with the doctor?

For patient safety, no student participants will be allowed to do procedures that they are not licensed to do in their home countries. That being said, many of our doctors have been trained to create an inclusive and collaborative environment with the students. We encourage all of our doctors to make the Global Medical Academy an educational experience for the students, while still providing efficient and effective care for our patients.

How is the Global Medical Academy different from other medical volunteering programs I've heard about?

The Global Medical Academy, offered by Squads Abroad, is unique in many ways. First, the Global Medical Academy is an essential component of our Holistic Model for sustainable development. Unlike other organizations, we not only support under-resourced communities through the help of student participants, but we also employ an on-the-ground team that works with communities to improve community health year-round. While medical clinics are an integral part of addressing healthcare concerns, we are devoted to sustainable health improvements. As such, Squads Abroad completes public health and water infrastructure projects that address the root causes of health concerns.



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Who else will be participating on the Global Medical Academy?

The Global Medical Academy is unique in that students will be able to connect with like-minded peers from around the U.S. in an international medical setting. Participants are highly qualified juniors and seniors with a passion for service and healthcare.

I am interested in being a pre-health student and want to learn more about what it means to pursue a career in medicine. How can the Global Medical Academy help me?

The Global Medical Academy is a fantastic opportunity for students interested in pre-health at university, or anyone interested in pursuing a career in the health field. Our Global Medical Academy offers students the opportunity to take lead of their professional development, travel abroad, and gain practical healthcare experience in rural communities in Belize or Panama. Additionally, your involvement with Squads Abroad, an internationally recognized non-profit, can serve as a great topic for college application essays and as résumé builder for professional development.

Where do the funds I raise go?

Global Medical Academy students do not pay to participate with Squads Abroad. Instead, students fundraise to support Squads Abroad's Holistic Model. Once a student meets a set Donation Goal, they are eligible to join us on-the-ground to see their fundraising efforts put into action by participating in the Global Medical Academy. In addition to covering student needs such as ground transportation, food, lodging, and emergency insurance, student funding also supports all the necessary costs for program implementation, such as medications, equipment, local doctors, pharmacists, translators, and support staff. Visit our parent organization Global Brigades' [financials page](#) to learn about how donor funds are utilized.

JOIN THE GLOBAL MEDICAL ACADEMY

Learn more about the program by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

