



GLOBAL MEDICAL ACADEMY

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Global Medical Academy is a 8-day medical service travel program in which students participate in a 3-day medical clinic in 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. Day 1-2 are travel and orientation and training days for the upcoming clinic. Days 3-5 are spent volunteering in the clinic. Days 6-7 are spent enjoying cultural and touristic activities and on Day 8 students return home.

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 **\$3290 for Belize, Guatemala, and Panama/ \$4290 for Greece**. This fee includes your airfare and all expenses while on the program. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, your program fee is tax deductible. We request that you put down a \$300 deposit as soon as possible to secure your space before 12/15 to secure a \$50 ‘early bird scholarship’. A first installment of \$1200 (C.A.) and \$1800 (Greece) is due March 15th for early June programs and March 30th for late June programs. First installment payments will be used to secure your airfare. The final balance is due is due May 15th for early June programs and May 30th for late June programs. 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?

Student safety is Medical Squads number one priority and is the single most important consideration when entering a community or choosing a project. For each country we partner with we’ve developed 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. Each program is managed by our professional in-country staff team and each participant is covered by our Travel Medical Insurance Policy. For more information on safety precautions, emergency procedures and insurance information, please visit the [Safety and Security](#) page on our website.

What are the requirements to join?

We ask that students participating in the medical clinic environment be at least graduated sophomores through graduated seniors in High School. (graduated seniors welcome) We do require students get their basic CPR and First Aid certifications and that they have basic knowledge and experience with medical assisting skills such as taking vitals. While clinical training will be provided and this is an ‘educational program’ we seek students who are serious about medicine and have the maturity to work in a clinical environment.



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How are the flights booked?

Flights are booked through our in-house travel agent to ensure coordination and support. There will be an adult chaperoned group flight option from a major US hub city, should students choose to have added assistance on the journey. Otherwise, students may choose to arrive anytime on the start date and depart anytime on the end date of the program.

Where will I be staying?

Medical Squads partner 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, you may reference the [Global Medical Academy PPT Presentation](#).

Who in charge of managing the group?

Each Medical Academy program is staff by a professional in-country team including a Lead Coordinator, Paramedic, Translators, Drivers, and Homebase Manager. The Coordinator and staff are responsible for ensuring all the activities flow smoothly and for the health, safety, and supervision of the group. Our private transportation and drivers pick the group up at the airport and are with the group throughout the program. Our Homebase Manager makes sure that ensure a comfortable stay at our lodging facilities and manage the food prep including accommodating any dietary restrictions.

How do I 'save a spot' and/or register?

Once you decide which country and dates, you can "Save a Spot" by filling out the [Global Medical Academy Spot Saved 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?

Students actively participate and support our staff with the intake, triage, dental station, pharmacy, and education stations. 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 educational 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. Students receive a Certificate following the program documenting the number of hours and patients receiving medical services during the clinic.



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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.

