

Name: Lesley Leung

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Specialty: Family Medicine

Country: Peru

Location: Lima

Rural/Urban: Rural

Hospital or non-hospital placement: Non-hospital

Type of placement: Pre-clerkship

Date: July 28 – August 24, 2011

Project title:

Organization: Solidarity Experiences Abroad

Website: <http://www.brocku.ca/campus-ministries/solidarity>

Main language spoken: Spanish

Other language(s): English

Project description: Our main objectives were to learn how healthcare can be delivered in a poor area of Peru (the shantytowns).

Our health campaigns consisted of:

- 1) Measuring height and weight
- 2) Taking blood samples to check for anemia
- 3) Checking for lice and giving treatment
- 4) Checking for cavities and fluoridating children's teeth and education on oral hygiene
- 5) General medicine check-ups with free medication

These health campaigns were performed in different areas of Lima.

Student experience description: Refer to my blog: <http://imjustperusing.tumblr.com/>

Placement safety: Lima is a very safe city. I never felt unsafe during the placement because I never travelled alone or at night. The retreat house was also in a really nice/affluent area.

Educational experience (out of 10): 7

Social/cultural experience (out of 10): 10

Does the organization have any religious affiliations? Yes

At any point did you feel expected to participate in religious activity? No

Program fee: \$4000-5000 (includes airfare, accommodation, and most meals)

Dress code: Scrubs

Accommodation: We stayed at a retreat house located in a private schoolground. There were two people to a room. Each room had 2 single beds, a closet, desk and chair and sink/mirror. There are communal bathrooms and showers. There is a common room, kitchen and dining hall. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were usually provided. The retreat house is cold and I wish I had brought more warm clothing. In addition, the showers were not always warm but there isn't anything you can really do about that.

Accommodation cost: Included

Helpful hints: Bring lots of warm clothing! Talk to Raoul about your objectives before the trip because you can select what you want to do on your trip - eg. observerships in hospitals, clinics, shantytowns etc. Try to learn some Spanish prior to going and buy a phrasebook, bring at least 2 pairs of scrubs, bring at

least \$500 USD in cash because there will be short tourist trips, trips to the Inka market for souvenirs and you will have to purchase some of your own meals

Questions you are glad to have asked before leaving on placement:

- weather
- safety
- dresscode

Questions you WISHED you asked before leaving on placement: Exactly how much cash to bring, more specific itinerary because I would have liked to spend some more time in the hospitals and clinics.

Overall, would you recommend this placement for future students? Yes