

Medical Intensive Spanish Program - Costa Rica

<http://ihcai.org>

Deadline: Rolling (but summer fills up fast)

Duration: 4 weeks

Program Outline:

- Homestay
- 3hrs of Grammar & 3hrs of Medical Spanish (Mon-Fri)
- Homework/Lectures (afternoon)

My Goal: To become proficient in medical Spanish, which will enable me to serve Spanish speaking patients better during clinical practice.

Outcome: I greatly increased my Spanish vocabulary and comfortability in talking with patients. I plan to continue exposing myself to situations where the knowledge I gained in this program will be used, expanded and retained during my medical career and beyond.

There is no clinical component to this program. It is strictly medical Spanish. So be prepared for an intense language program, especially if you are at the basic level. The medical Spanish part includes standardized patients, role playing and all the phases necessary for a history and physical. You also receive a few lectures on the healthcare system in Costa Rica and tropical medicine. I tested at the basic level and learned about two years worth of Spanish during grammar class. If you are dedicated and determined to learn Spanish in a short amount of time this program is designed just for you. They also have intermediate and advanced classes. Some students came to perfect their Spanish speaking skills and the program director tailored activities just for them.

During the summer months it is mostly medical students from all around the US and Canada. The homestays vary depending on how many people are in your family and how affluent they are. You will have your own room, desk, two meals per day and clothes washed weekly. Many students lived in the same neighborhood and would take the bus or walk together to and from school. You might even be living with other students. There is time to travel on the weekends as a group. Costa Rica is one of the most beautiful countries I have visited, so I would definitely suggest going on at least one weekend excursion.

San Jose is the capital city and has everything you will need. You can buy lunch for as little as \$3 for a traditional meal to about \$12 for something fancy. American chains prices are equivalent to those in the US. I would recommend bringing a check card and some cash. Traveler's checks are hard to exchange and you might be at the bank for 3 hours. Visa and MasterCard are accepted in most places and there are ATM's all around (check your bank fees before you go to plan what will be most economic). If you have any specific questions feel free to contact me matthens@umdnj.edu.



