

Jackie Savage

Summary of Study Abroad

I chose to study in Santiago, Chile because it had a medical internship program already established. They offered a four hour course that was a medical internship, a 3 hour medical terminology course, and some of the universities offered courses that included introductory nursing courses. I took the four hour and 3 hour course which I found both to be beneficial to one expanding my medical vocabulary in Spanish as well as expanding my knowledge of different health care systems. The medical internship is ideal for anyone interested in healthcare because it gives you a different perspective on healthcare that is different from the USA model. We had lecture for the first month which introduced us to their model and the different areas in which we will be shadowing. The next 3 months were shadowing different areas of their healthcare system including private and public hospitals, clinics and drug-alcohol rehabilitation centers, and centers for the rehabilitation of malnourished children and a geriatric center. The shadowing was very educational because it forces you to use your Spanish in a medical setting as well as gaining general knowledge in different patient care. I found the administrators very flexible and extra shadowing is available in an area of your choice, I shadowed a vascular surgeon on my own time. The medical terminology course was extremely helpful because you learn so many basic medical words that you ultimately end up using during your shadowing. The only downside is not having a place to return to at Wofford which allows you to continue to expand and use your Spanish knowledge in a medical setting. I feel I have lost some that I learned because I haven't utilized it since I have been back. Another drawback is that your English is somewhat simple your first week back and so do not schedule a medical school interview that week because you will appear ignorant, a mistake I made. Overall, I recommend this program highly because I really learned a lot that I would not have learned at Wofford.