

The Wilson Medical Exchange

In honor of Robert Wilson, the American doctor who stayed in Nanjing to help Chinese people during the 1937 Japanese invasion, the Wilson Medical Exchange is a three-week program in the United States designed to develop Chinese medical students **professionally** through shadowing doctors at hospitals, **culturally** by living in American homes and **personally** through leadership discussions and volunteer service.

Exchange Dates

- Students leave from Shanghai on January 17th and land in Shanghai on February 9th 2012.

Exchange Partners

The Wilson Medical Exchange is designed by City Development and Training Initiative (CDTI) in full cooperation with the International School of Education at Nanjing Medical University. CDTI is a project of ELIC, a nonprofit education organization with 30 years of work in China, who uses education and training to improve the quality of life and relationships between China and the United States.

Exchange Description

The Wilson Medical Exchange is designed to develop Chinese medical students in three ways. The first is to strengthen the student's medical professional skills by shadowing American doctors. Job shadowing is a common teaching technique in the United States that allows students to follow doctors as they do their job, followed by discussions later with the doctors about the things they observed. Students do not practice medicine, but they are allowed to observe authentic medical practice between doctors and patients as their illness are diagnosed and treated. Not only will students see the use of advanced medical technology, they will witness the practice of medicine with concern and compassion. In the application students can specify their preferred medical fields for observation. Much consideration will be given to these requests, but shadowing experiences must be determined by the program designers. All the doctors in this medical exchange have been selected not only for their medical expertise, but also their treatment of patients with dignity and respect. This is a rare quality that cannot be learned in a textbook but sets great doctors apart from good ones.

Second, the Wilson Medical Exchange places students in homes with families. This provides the student with firsthand experience of true American culture as they eat meals together and socialize in the evenings and weekends. It also allows students to continue their English practice in the world's best classroom--the home. The host families treat the students like a member of their family and welcome them into normal life. There will be some special activities for the visiting students at local site seeing locations. The costs for these outings are included in the program fee.

Finally, the Wilson Medical Exchange helps students grow personally by being involved in discussions led by medical professionals to help them process their experience, talk about the difficulties facing doctors, and return to China with a deeper understanding of the role of doctors in modern society. Furthermore, students will grow personally by volunteering some of their time helping the poor and disadvantaged of society receive basic medical treatment. Many visitors to America only see the attractive destinations, but the Wilson Medical Exchange helps its students have a broader view of life in America. It is our hope that by witnessing American doctors help the poor in America that the students will return to China with of stronger vision to do the same.

Exchange Cities

Students participating in the Wilson Medical Exchange will stay in one of two locations: Augusta, Georgia or Birmingham, Alabama. These cities have been selected not only for their medical accomplishments, but more importantly for their medical communities which understand the values of the Wilson Medical Exchange and are willing to share their lives with medical students from China.

Birmingham, Alabama is located in the Southeast and is a regional medical training center of high reputation. Some forward thinking city fathers/political leaders about 30 years ago decided to invest in the UAB School of Medicine by hiring faculty from some of the prestigious medical centers around the country. The result has been that UAB is ranked tenth primary care in the nation this area has attracted many other top-quality professionals in a variety of medical specialties. There are 3 major private hospital chains in the area with some of the top surgeons in the country as well as some top people in other medical fields. For example when professional athletes in the USA have to have knee surgery, many, if not most, come here to be operated at St Vincent's Hospital. The Dental school has also received national recognition and has state-of-the-art labs for training students and residents. There is also a physical therapy school, an optometry school, two nursing schools, a training program for physician's assistants.

Augusta, Georgia is also located in the Southeast and is the second largest city in Georgia. It is home to University Health Care System which has a six-hundred and twelve bed facility that has received the National Research Corporation's Consumer Choice Award for the last twelve years. Georgia Health Sciences University is composed of five schools: the Medical College of Georgia, College Dental Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Allied Health Sciences, and College of Graduate Studies. It's dental school is the only one in Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia is the thirteenth oldest continuous operating school in the country. In addition, its research facilities are a popular destination for Chinese medical professionals.

Students are welcomed to express a placement preference, but CDTI will make the final choice as to where students will stay.

Exchange Cost

The total cost of the exchanges is ¥26,000 元. This includes:

- Visa application fees, and travel fees to the Visa interview in Shanghai.
- Round-trip airfare from Shanghai to the destination city in the United States
- All living and travel expenses while in the United States
- Medical clothing required for hospital visits
- \$300 USD for meals while working

This cost does not include:

- Personal shopping expenses
- International Insurance

If selected to participate in the Wilson Medical Exchange:

- a nonrefundable deposit of ¥5,000 元 is due on November 11, 2011.
- the remaining balance of ¥21,000 元 is three days after Visa approval.

Requirements

Program participants must:

- be a third year or above undergraduate medical students and postgraduates.
- have an upper-intermediate English level or higher.
- be willing to abide by all laws of the United States
- participate in both orientation events on November 19 and December 17. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the exchange program.

Application Process

1. Fill out the Wilson Medical Exchange Application form in English and submit it to the NMU School of International Education by October 21.
2. Selected students will be chosen to participate in an interview on November 4. The interview measures the student's English level, reasons for joining the medical exchange and ability to adapt to life in another culture. Eligible students will be notified of their participation in the interview no later than November 1.
3. Final selection will be announced on November 11.

Living Arrangements

Students will stay in American homes for the entire duration of their stay. Program participants may be placed together in the same home and room (same gender only), but will have their own bed. All host homes should have internet access.

Sample Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule for the three weeks in America. Due to the complexity of the doctors' schedules an exact itinerary is not possible as adjustments will need to be made to accommodate both the needs of the doctors and students to ensure the greatest possible experience.

January 17 (Tuesday)

- Arrive, meet hosts and go to their homes

January 18 (Wednesday)

- Orientation
- Tour medical schools and hospitals

January 19-20 (Thursday-Friday)

- ESL Medical Lessons or CPR Training

January 21-22 (Weekend)

- Time with families

January 23-27 (Monday-Friday)

- Medical and leadership training
- Volunteer at medical clinic
- Shadowing
- Two evenings of medical discussions
- Hockey game

January 28-29 (Saturday-Sunday)

- Sightseeing trip to Atlanta
- Time with families

January 30-February 3 (Monday-Friday)

- Daily Shadowing
- Basketball game
- Two evenings of medical discussions

February 4-5 (Saturday-Sunday)

- Time with hosts

February 6 (Monday-Tuesday)

- Debrief and Evaluation
- Packing

February 7 (Tuesday)

- Depart from the U.S.

February 9 (Thursday)

- Arrive in Shanghai

Contact Information

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