



—THE LATIN— AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ELAM

FACILITIES

The Latin American School of Medicine is located on the site of a former naval academy. The campus has 28 buildings, which house 80 classrooms, 37 laboratories, five amphitheatres, dormitories, a clinic and other facilities. ELAM currently has more than 17,000 students enrolled from 124 countries throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the United States.

APPLICANT CRITERIA

- United States citizenship with a current passport
- Proficiency in college-level sciences with a minimum of B- average, in two semesters of:
 - Biology with lab
 - General Chemistry with lab
 - Organic Chemistry with lab
 - Physics with lab
- 18-25 years old at time of application
- Lifetime commitment to practice medicine in poor and underserved communities in the U.S. after graduation.



PERSONS OF COLOR AND/OR LOW INCOME ARE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

The IFCO Medical Advisory Committee receives and reviews applications. Cuban officials make all final decisions regarding admission. The Committee offers unique and extensive support to candidates during the application process.

FOR APPLICATIONS AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.ifconews.org

IFCO was founded in 1967 to advance the struggles of oppressed people for justice and self-determination. Since then, IFCO has worked with its international church partners and a network of grassroots organizations to assist the disenfranchised to develop and sustain community organizations to fight injustice.

Since 1992, IFCO, through our project Pastors for Peace, has worked to bring an end to the immoral and unjust U.S. economic blockade of Cuba. We organize Friendship Caravans to educate and organize people across the United States. We also organize construction brigades, educational delegations and other exchanges.

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MEDICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



**HAVANA,
CUBA**

BACKGROUND



During an IFCO sponsored Congressional Black Caucus delegation to Cuba in June 2000, a Congressperson from the Mississippi Delta remarked to late Cuban President Fidel Castro that there are large areas in his district which do not have a single physician. President Castro responded with an offer of full scholarships for young adults of color from low income, working class and underserved areas throughout the U.S.

In his September 2001 speech at the Riverside Church in New York, President Castro said, “We are to prepared to grant a number of scholarships to poor youth who cannot afford to pay the \$400,000 it costs to get a medical degree in the United States.”

The intent of this scholarship offer is to help the U.S. fill the dramatic need for health care in some of its most medically neglected and impoverished regions. These full scholarships for young adults to study medicine in Cuba cover tuition, dormitory room and board, uniforms and textbooks in Spanish.

The only condition of Cuba’s scholarship offer is that graduates of the program return to the U.S. to practice medicine in underserved communities. IFCO views this scholarship offer as a historically unprecedented opportunity. Accordingly, IFCO seeks to make this opportunity available to U.S. students. We began recruitment for the scholarship program in 2001.

HEALTH CARE IN CUBA IS UNIVERSAL AND FREE



Cuba continues to make health care a priority for its citizens, despite the effects of the suffocating U.S. blockade. Cuba’s public health care system is world renowned. It maintains one physician for every 127 inhabitants and graduates over 2,000 new physicians every year. The Infant Mortality Rate is less than that of the United States. The Cuban Ministry of Public Health maintains a clinic, with at least one doctor and one nurse in residence, for every 120 families.

CUBA PROVIDES HEALTH CARE FOR THE WORLD

Since 1963, Cuba has sent close to 132,000 doctors and health professionals to work voluntarily in over 102 countries in the developing world. Currently Cuba has health and cooperation projects in 65 countries.

- Cuba’s Henry Reeve Brigade has extensive experience working in countries such as Haiti and Pakistan plagued by natural disasters; Cuba responded to the Ebola crisis by sending 256 specialists to West Africa.
- Cuba has treated more than 18,000 patients of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Eastern Europe.
- Cuba’s Operation Miracle has restored the eyesight of over 3 million people in 34 countries with vision-saving and restoring surgery.
- Cuba’s ELAM program has graduated more than 28,500 doctors from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States to practice medicine in their communities.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

All courses at ELAM are taught in Spanish. The pre-med curriculum includes an introductory course in health sciences as well as courses in chemistry, biology, math, physics and a 12-week intensive Spanish language program. The seven-year medical school program, which includes a one-year rotating internship, begins every September. Students attend their pre-med and first two years at the ELAM campus and then attend another Cuban medical school connected to hospitals and poly-clinics. The Cuban medical training model combines theory with practice and focuses on primary care, community medicine and hands-on internships.

The program at ELAM provides intensive advising and tutoring designed to help every student succeed. Students must pass competency exams at appropriate points in their course of study. For U.S. students this includes the United States Medical Licensing Exams (USMLE).