

SUMMER AND GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for something to do between graduation and medical, dental, or graduate school? These are some of the many opportunities available ranging in length from summer to one to two years. Certain opportunities may be directly related to medicine or healthcare, while others may be a chance to explore another side of working with people, such as teaching or community organizing. You may consider fellowships, internships, research, volunteering, part-time employment, etc. Whether you are looking to improve your candidacy to medical or dental school, experience something new before entering your program, or join the workforce to gain some real-world experience, there is an opportunity out there for you!

This is only a sample of the many opportunities available. If you wish to explore additional resources or learn more about what to do upon graduation before entering a graduate or professional program consider attending one of the many [events put on by HPAO](#).

Volunteer Opportunities and Internships

[American Cancer Society Internships](#)

Volunteer opportunities available with patient service programs

The internship program at the American Cancer Society provides an opportunity for people to make a difference as they gain valuable hands-on experience in the non-profit sector and a greater understanding of the Society's mission.

[American Public Health Association Internships](#)

3 months- 1 year

The American Public Health Association is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world and has been working to improve public health since 1872. A variety of internships for undergraduate and graduate students are available.

[AYUDA International Dental Clinics](#)

As a private non-profit humanitarian dental, medical and educational organization, AYUDA's mission is to be actively engaged in improving and sustaining the oral health of people in underserved areas of the world. By providing assistance through treatment, training and education, AYUDA helps promote health education and social betterment.

[Cedars-Sinai Med Volunteer Program](#)

The Independent Student (IS) Volunteer Program is designed for collegiate-aged students who are seeking a specific role in either a clinical or research experience. For students seeking an experience in a specialized field of medicine, this program allows you an opportunity to contact a specific physician and/or researcher to secure a volunteer position in their area of interest. This program is open throughout the year and is co-managed by Academic Affairs.

[Center for Patient Partnerships](#)

Do you know aspiring health professionals taking time off before pursuing professional school who are looking for a transformative experience? For recent graduates who would benefit from additional direct patient contact and learning about social determinants of health, the Certificate Program in Consumer Health Advocacy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's interdisciplinary Center for Patient Partnerships might offer just the experience to round out their

resume. Students learn about patients' experiences in the health care system by providing health advocacy. Now our 12-credit certificate is available online. Please see Center for Patient Partnerships's [transformative experience for gap years students \(.pdf\)](#).

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[Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County](#)

CCALAC serves and represents the interests of its free and community clinic Members. Our 47 Members operate over 140 sites in L.A. County. They provide quality primary care (including medical, dental and mental health services) for the uninsured and medically underserved populations.

[Cope Clinical Care Extender \(CCE\) Internship Program](#)

Saint Francis Medical Center

The Clinical Care Extender Internship features a clinically-focused experience that gives pre-health professionals unprecedented access to direct patient care. Clinical Care Extender Interns become valuable members of the patient care team alongside nurses, physicians and allied health professionals in clinical and administrative settings. Interns receive training to participate in basic patient care tasks such as bathing, changing and feeding patients as they rotate among the different departments within the hospital.

[COPE Health Solutions](#)

COPE Health Solutions is a leading health care corporation based in Los Angeles, California. We partner with hospitals, health systems and other health care providers to help them achieve visionary, market relevant health care solutions.

[National Institute of Health \(NIH\)](#)

Research and training opportunities including summer internship programs, summer research fellowship programs, post-baccalaureate research opportunities, and graduate education programs.

[Operation Smile](#)

At Operation Smile, our volunteers make a difference in the lives of children every day. And by helping others, they impact their own lives as well. We hope you'll be moved to help us make a difference in the lives of children. And join our world of compassion.

[Saban Free Clinic](#)

Los Angeles Free Clinic

The Saban Free Clinic, in collaboration with strategic partners, serves as a medical home for the underserved and those who are most vulnerable by providing comprehensive, dependable and affordable quality health care in a caring environment.

[UCLA Venice Dental Center](#)

The School of Dentistry is committed to providing care to underserved populations. Since 1969, it has provided oral health care to underserved populations through its Venice Dental Center and by partnering with other hospitals, clinics, and centers in Venice, West Hollywood, Northeast San Fernando Valley and in downtown Los Angeles.

[Venice Family Clinic](#)

Venice Family Clinic provides more than 106,000 primary care, specialty care, mental health, dental, and health education visits annually. All services – including diagnosis, treatment, medications, follow-up care, and laboratory tests

– are provided free of charge. Particular emphasis is placed on the needs of women, children, the homeless, and those with chronic diseases.

Fellowships

Emerging Leaders Program

2 years

The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is a competitive, two-year, paid, federal internship with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The program provides a unique opportunity to develop analytical and critical leadership skills in one of the largest federal agencies in the nation.

Department of Health and Human Services

2 years

Opportunities for College Graduates are intended to provide individuals who have graduated from an undergraduate or graduate program with an opportunity to integrate their education and experience into full-time employment with the Federal government. The Presidential Management Fellows Program (PMF), the HHS Emerging Leaders Program (PMF), and the Federal Career Intern Program (FCIP) are a few programs for graduates.

Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET)

Each participant in the JET Programme brings their culture to a local community in Japan, helping the country to gain personal contact with peoples of other countries. Secondly, each JET participant will learn a great deal about Japan, its culture and its people. It is expected that JET participants will share what they learned with their family and friends upon returning home. Program requires relevant international experience. Include transcripts from study abroad and appropriate LOR's.

Presidential Management Fellows Program

1 year

The purpose of the Program is to attract to the Federal service outstanding men and women from a variety of academic disciplines and career paths who have a clear interest in, and commitment to, excellence in the leadership and management of public policies and programs.

Princeton in Asia Fellowship Program

PiA offers yearlong, service-oriented fellowships in 18 Asian countries in the fields of education, international development (NGOs), environmental advocacy, journalism, law and business, with a majority of fellows working as English teachers at universities and high schools. PiA fellowships are open to graduates or graduating seniors from all accredited colleges and universities.

U.S. Schweitzer Fellows Programs

1 year

The U.S. Schweitzer Fellows Programs provide community service fellowships for graduate students in health-related professional fields who are dedicated to addressing unmet health needs in local areas.

Research

A good way to get involved with research is to network with current and past professors or to get in touch with faculty members within various academic departments. There may be opportunities here at the University of Southern California or the departments may know of grant money available for temporary research positions in your field after graduation.

[AAMC Graduate Research, Education, and Training \(GREAT\) Group](#)

Summer

The GREAT Group is an AAMC Group established quality education in the biomedical sciences. They have a link to Summer Undergraduate Research Programs (by school) at their website.

[Health Sciences Research Opportunities](#)

Summer

This website from Swarthmore College provides a list of links to summer research programs available to undergrads and recent grads in the U.S.

[National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)

NSF supports a variety of science, engineering and education research in nearly every field.

[NeoGenomics Laboratories](#)

NeoGenomics is a state of the art comprehensive testing laboratory headquartered in Fort Myers and Tampa, Florida with additional locations in Nashville, Tennessee; Houston, Texas; and Irvine, Fresno, & Aliso Viejo, California. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits to include health, dental, life & disability insurances, a Section 125 plan, a 401(k), flexible spending account (FSA), employee stock purchase plan, and relocation assistance.

[Saban Research Institute](#)

Affiliated with Children's Hospital, Los Angeles

The Saban Research Institute is one of the few freestanding research centers in the U.S. where scientific inquiry is combined with clinical care and is devoted exclusively to children.

[Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/ Sloan-Kettering Gateways to the Laboratory Program](#)

The program is highlighted by the NIH as one of the top ten summer programs for underrepresented and disadvantaged students. Every year, 15 students embark on a 10 week intensive journey of learning about the challenging and gratifying road of becoming a physician-scientist.

Service Opportunities

[AmeriCorps State and National](#)

9-12 months

The largest of AmeriCorps programs, AmeriCorps State and National provides funds to local and national organizations and agencies committed to using national service to address critical community needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. Members serve full- or part-time over a 9- to 12-month period.

[AmeriCorps NCCC](#)

10 months

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18–24. Members live on one of five campuses, located in Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, Iowa. AmeriCorps NCCC requires an intensive, 10-month commitment.

[AmeriCorps VISTA](#)

1 year

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen communities, and much more.

[City Year](#)

1 year

City Year corps member serve full-time as tutors and mentors in schools, running after-school programs, leading and developing youth leadership programs, and vacation camps to make a difference in the lives of children and their communities.

[Citizen Schools](#)

2 years

The Citizen Schools National Teaching Fellowship is a service program offering a two-year, leadership development experience, including service as a team leader at a Citizen Schools campus, professional development with a partner organization in the community, and the opportunity for optional enrollment in a pioneering Master's program in out-of-school learning.

[Teach for America](#)

2 years

Teach for America aims to end educational inequity. TFA corps members serve in high-need schools for two-year commitments.

[Peace Corps](#)

2 years

Peace Corps Volunteers serve in 74 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Collaborating with local community members, volunteers work in areas like education, youth outreach and community development, health, and information technology.

Overseas Opportunities

This is just a small sample of overseas opportunities. These sites provide a great place to begin your search for information and postings regarding work, volunteer, and internship opportunities abroad.

[AIESEC](#)

AIESEC is a global, non-political, independent, not-for-profit organization run by students and recent graduates. Its members are interested in world issues, leadership and management. AIESEC provides its members with an integrated development experience comprised of leadership opportunities, international internships and participation in a global learning environment.

[BUNAC](#)

BUNAC offers a range of work abroad, volunteer abroad, and teaching overseas programs to destinations such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia, South Africa, Ghana, China, and Peru.

[ChildVoice International](#)

10-12 weeks in spring, summer, and fall

ChildVoice International is quickly expanding in northern Uganda. Opportunities include, but are not limited to, adult and child education, psycho-social rehabilitation, community health, spiritual leadership and development, income generating projects, microfinance, art, physical and occupational therapy, administrative and organizational tasks, and agriculture.

Global Healing HEAL Internship

1-3 Months

Health Education & Advocacy Liaisons (HEAL) internships give undergraduate and medical students the chance to work with physicians at the Roatan Volunteer Pediatric Clinic (RVPC) in Honduras.

Global Brigades

This organization seeks groups of passionate volunteers who mobilize toward positive social change. Global Brigades is the world's largest student-led global health and sustainable development organization. Since 2004, Global Brigades has mobilized thousands of university students and professionals through nine skill-based service programs to improve quality of life in under resourced communities.

International Service Learning

As a socially responsible international educational NGO, ISL enlists medical and educational volunteer teams for the provision of services to under-served populations in Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Africa.

Peace Corps

2 years

Peace Corps Volunteers serve in 74 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Collaborating with local community members, volunteers work in areas like education, youth outreach and community development, health, and information technology.