

Pharmabridge®: Become a host institution

Building the global
bridge

Pharmabridge® is a voluntary initiative supported by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), aimed at strengthening pharmacy services in developing and transitional countries with the support of established pharmacy resources from the developed world.

Founded in 1999, Pharmabridge® aims to foster communication and transfer of information, resources, and experiences between pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, and pharmacy educators from many corners of the globe, leading to the betterment of pharmacy services, and in turn improved patient care and overall enhanced community health.

GROWING DEMAND FOR HOST INSTITUTIONS

Pharmabridge® partners with academic institutions, community pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, and pharmaceutical industry around the world to host pharmacists from developing and transitional countries.

Nearly 100 pharmacists have participated in the Pharmabridge® program, with more than half of these occurring in the last few years. Requests are increasing and more host institutions are required to accommodate this need.

If you are able to host pharmacists at your institution for approximately 4 weeks, we would like to invite you to partner with us.



BECOME A HOST INSTITUTION

Pharmabridge® welcomes participation from all those involved in the pharmacy workforce in order to create a globally comprehensive network of individuals working towards improved pharmacy practice. To ensure that a successful Pharmabridge® program is delivered, various host institutions provide the following advice:

1. Accommodation

Although Pharmabridge participants receive some support from FIP, the program is primarily self-funded. As such, low, long-term lodging costs within walking distance or short ride from the host site and nearby practice sites is ideal. Various host institutions use site-specific low cost lodging facilities to fulfil this need. However, for institutions that do not have these facilities, the following websites have been used previously to ensure accommodation costs remain minimal:

- Airbnb – <https://www.airbnb.com>
- Indianroomates – <http://indianroommates.sulekha.com>

Though low cost lodging is ideal, it is not a condition to become a host institution.

2. Visas

While obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the Pharmabridge participant, the host institutions should ensure sufficient time is available. Up to 6 months can be required to obtain a visa and book a visa interview if needed. This has caused significant delays in the past.

Although each country will have its own visa requirements, Pharmabridge will assist in this process as necessary.

3. Partner institutions

Pharmacists, particularly those visiting academic institutions, are not only interested in curricula components and pedagogy, but also in how pharmacy is practiced at different institutions in your country. Having partner institutions participate in the program has been highly beneficial for past participants.

This has included patient rounds participation in hospitals, community pharmacy practice, exposure to drug and poison information centers, and ambulatory pharmacist-managed clinics (e.g. anticoagulation).

4. Social network

Exchange programs are a great way to share your culture and learn about others. Having a social network with whom the Pharmabridge participants can engage will greatly enhance their experience. In addition, many academic institutions have an international students office that organizes numerous activities for your overseas guests.

If you are interested in collaborating with Pharmabridge® to become a host institution, more information can be obtained at www.pharmabridge.org

For additional information, please contact Pharmabridge's founder, Dr A. Wehrli at wehrli@bluewin.ch

