

MLA/ICS International Visiting Health Information Professionals Program

The MLA/ICS International Visiting Health Information Professionals Program (International VIP) is a partnership between the Medical Library Association (MLA) and medical library associations that have a bilateral agreement with the MLA. This project exists to enable medical librarians and their institutions to provide the best information and services possible to medical professionals and health consumers globally. Visiting libraries in other countries allows medical librarians to see first-hand how libraries serve patrons academically and at point of need. By facilitating an international visiting program, the MLA hopes to foster international cooperation, communication, awareness, exchange of ideas, and professional excellence.

Hosting institutions benefit from the International VIP by learning from their visiting medical librarian's professional background, experiences, and skills. Collaboration between the visiting librarian and hosting institution allows for exchange of innovative ideas, practices, technologies, and projects. Hosting institutions are a part of the interview process to make sure that the visiting librarians will match the needs of their hosts. Individuals, upon return to their home institutions, will be able to better understand the learning environment from which international medical students and doctors come. This will facilitate better communication and understanding of international students' needs during their cultural and professional transition.

Individual participants benefit from experiencing medical librarianship from a different cultural perspective. Contributing to and learning from international colleagues allows individuals to forge lifelong partnerships with professionals from a different perspective. Not only will individuals be able to enhance standards of the profession globally, they will personally improve their skills in information, communication, flexibility, and creativity. Individuals will learn new ideas, practices, and approaches in medical librarianship that they can apply in their home institution and career.

Individuals who participate in this program are responsible for their own financial support. There is no obligation for the institution to the visiting librarian, other than providing the librarian with workspace to carry out projects. It is strongly recommended that the institution provides general information on accommodation and living options.

MLA, through the International Cooperation Section (ICS), provides consultation to individuals upon accepting the International VIP opportunity. Upon completion of the International VIP, the hosting institution and visiting librarian will complete a brief survey to evaluate the experience.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Individual and host institution applications will be considered by the MLA/ICS International VIP Task Force on the first of January, April, July, and October. Applicants should submit their applications two weeks before the date by which they wish to be considered.
- Placement announcements are made four weeks after each consideration date.
- Approval is determined by the selection criteria.
- A list of approved institutions will be sent to partner library associations quarterly, so that individuals can express interest in visiting these host institutions. Host institutions are selected to join the International VIP by the Task Force.
- The Task Force will match selected individuals and host institutions based on their respective applications. Individual and host institution may participate in the matching, including direct communication between individual and host institution.
- The Task Force will inform the individual and the institution about their match and provide both parties with guidelines.

MLA/ICS International Visiting Health Information Professionals Host Institution Application Form

ELIGIBILITY

- Host institution is a library or information center in an academic health sciences center, hospital, or other health-related organization.
- Host institution has a preceptor that will be the main contact person and host and manager for the program.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Host institutions will be selected and matched with carefully selected individuals based on the completion of the host institution application.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Prospective host institutions need to provide the following along with the application:

- A letter from the Dean, President, Executive Vice President or other administrator stating that the institution is willing to host the visiting professional member of a partner medical library association.
- A description of the institution, its project goals, areas of interest and need, and expectation of the visiting librarian (see below).

PART 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Institution Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Website: _____

PART 2: STATEMENT OF INTEREST (200-300 WORDS)

PART 3: POTENTIAL PROJECT AREAS (200-300 WORDS)

These may include, but are not limited to: bioinformatics and/or translational sciences; clinical librarianship and/or clinical informatics; outreach to underserved or previously unreached populations; management and curation of e-only health sciences collections; digitization; data curation; specialized library experience (veterinary, public health, sciences, etc.); and instruction and instructional design.

Signature or (if submitting electronically) name of administrator: _____ Date: _____

PART 4: PRECEPTOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Telephone: _____ ☐ Work ☐ Cell ☐ Home

Email address: _____

Preceptor Biography:

Expected Duties of Visiting Librarian:

Signature or (if submitting
electronically) name of preceptor: _____ Date: _____

PART 5: HOSTING PREFERENCES

Number of Librarians willing to host: _____

Time of Year Preference: _____

Duration of Hosting Preference: _____

Description of housing and accommodation options:

Signature or (if submitting
electronically) name of preceptor: _____ Date: _____