The following document is intended as a resource for Physician Assistant (PA) educators who are interested in developing a relationship with a non-US University training PA students for the purpose of hosting short-term clinical experiences for those students in the US. It includes general guidelines for the legal and logistical aspects of the development of this type of clinical placement. It also includes recommendations for supporting the non-US trained student while studying in the US. This document is meant to provide a general framework from which a PA Program may develop its own approach to establishing this type of experience.

Legal Considerations

1. Memorandum of understanding established between the US host University and the non-US University
   a. Determine how a student will be selected and what minimum academic standards will be set for eligibility to participate in the abroad experience
   b. Determine/agree the level of education the student will have at the time of the abroad experience (e.g., completed 1 year, just prior to graduation, etc.)
   c. Proof of English language competency
   d. Agree the number of students to be involved in exchange each year
2. US University’s Office of International Affairs to offer student visa
   a. Student may need to travel to US embassy in home country for visa
   b. Student aware of associated costs

Logistical Considerations

1. Establish housing and transportation
   a. Rent car (age of student?) vs. public transport (may affect shifts student can take)
   b. Stay with host family or student(s) from host University
   c. Student aware of potential costs
2. Background clearances from home country
   a. Will US hospital accept non-US clearance?
   b. Urine drug screen may be needed – can it be done in US if not in home country?
3. Health clearances
   a. If BCG done will need chest x-ray…may be difficult for student to get if government supported healthcare – no medical reason for test so student may have to pay for it and therefore needs to be aware of potential costs
4. Health insurance while in US
   a. Obtained from home country through travel insurance vs. purchased from US University vendor
   b. Student aware of potential costs
Curricular Considerations

1. Clinical site open to non-US trained PA student
   a. Preceptor willing to work with student more closely, and potentially observation only for some period of time
   b. Possibly pair with US PA student on rotation
2. Orientation in US at host University (and/or some done online in advance if possible)
   a. Register as student with host University
   b. Address differences in language/words used
   c. Address differences in health care systems
   d. Discuss the setting in which the student will rotate (e.g., hospital, ED, outpatient office, etc.)
   e. Describe the expectations for the rotation (i.e., expected level of interaction with the patient, dynamics of the medical team and the student’s role within the team, relationship with the preceptor)
   f. Difference in medications used (make pocket reference available to student)
   g. Reference for texts for specialty in which student is rotating
   h. HIPAA completed
   i. Provide short white coat
   j. If scrubs needed let student know in advance to bring his/her own – may be accustomed to hospitals in home country supplying them
3. Any requirements from home University for evaluation vs. using US host-University evaluation tool.
4. Will need to touch base with student periodically during rotation to follow-up on how student is adjusting, any issues/concerns, etc.
5. Student debrief before returning to home University

*The non-US trained PA student may carry a different professional title than Physician Assistant. Depending upon the country of origin, the professional title might be Physician Associate, Clinical Associate, etc. These health professionals function as part of a health care team and at a level very similar to that of a US trained Physician Assistant.*