Alexandra Ballard
Class of 2016
Child Family Health International
Bolivia
Work Description

• I was in Tarija for all of July where I worked in local clinics in the mornings for three weeks and then La Plataforma de Chagas for one week. I took Spanish classes in the afternoons.

• I was in La Paz for August where I worked in Hospital del Niño for three weeks and then at a clinic (Servicio de Adolescentes) & hospital centered around OBGYN work. I volunteered at a local orphanage in the afternoon for three weeks.
Bolivia Pre-Med Immersion
Rewarding Moment

• Every clinical interaction I had with the locals was incredibly amazing. One poignant memory of mine happened one day I swapped rotations with another student to go to INTRAID—a rehabilitation center for people coping with drug/alcohol abuse and/or psychological issues. The doctor told the first patient we saw, who was battling depression and complaining of loneliness that she was not alone because she had him, Deirdre and me right here by her side for support. It just made me realize how important and universal that your actions can be—how much a smile and thoughtfulness can bridge any cultural/linguistic barrier.
Rewarding Moment

Un Día de Semana 3
Impact

• My IIP was a little unique in the fact that it was largely a learning experience. There wasn’t a specific project we worked on. It was meaningful when I was able to help the doctors and fill out some of their paperwork. I think the biggest impact was sharing with them the differences between the U.S and Bolivia methods of healthcare.

• At the orphanage I got the ball rolling to clean up this outside area so it would be safer for the kids and they would have more space to play.
Impact
Centro de Salud Nestor Paz
Tarija, Bolivia
Career Plan Impact

• Working with CFHI further solidified my desire to become a surgeon. I firmly believe it is going to help me even more now whenever I’m struggling in a pre-med class on a problem set etc. I have this intense experience to keep me focused and grounded to better channel my career passions despite the challenges I have to face before I can get there.
Career Plan Impact
Hospital del Niño
Cultural Awareness & Personal Growth

• I’m much more self-confident now and independent from all the commuting I did to different places each day and the trips we planned and went on. Having to speak Spanish all the time was a really authentic cultural immersion experience. Their way of life is very different than ours and I had some great conversations with doctors and my host families to understand more about cultural beliefs and problems they see the country faces.