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# CFHI Tarija!

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Internship: CFHI Bolivia  
Country/ State: Tarija, Bolivia



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# Work and Locations



- The internship took place over the course of 8 weeks
  - Every two weeks we had a new rotation at a different clinic or hospital location
    - Rotation one: Rural Health Clinic
    - Rotation two: Chagas Clinic
    - Rotation three: Hospital Rotation (burn unit, surgery, etc.)
    - Rotation four: Urban Clinic
  - We also volunteered at a children center for two hours after eating lunch with our host families
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# Working in Tarija



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# Rewarding Aspects of the Program



- Working with Doctors and Children
    - The first was working at the clinics and with doctors from the country
    - The second was working with children at Libélula (the children's center)
  - Living and Working in another language
    - Building new people skills
    - Figuring out what matters in a conversation with patients
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○ Making new friends

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# Volunteering



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# Impact on CFHI



- Our rotation experience provided insights on improving program productivity
  - The program began to focus more on ways we can both help patients and gain proper work experience
- Through our work at the children's center we augmented the staffs ability to teach and nurture the children

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# Exploring the Land



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# Impact on Academic Choices and Career Plans



- Working in Tarija definitely strengthened my convictions on becoming a doctor
  - My time working in a burn unit also made me realize that there is a lot of work to be done within trauma medicine that I want to be a part of
  - I used to want to focus solely on pre-medical studies, but now I realize that studying global health is also essential to becoming an informed physician
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# Cultural Awareness and Final Thoughts



- Even though there was a fair amount of culture shock in Tarija, by the end of the program I had built personal ties to friends and my host family living in the country
  - Because of Bolivia's central location, I also gained insight into the cultural dynamics of South America as a whole
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