



Experience healthcare education at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC)!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A MEDICAL ATTACHMENT (CLINICAL ROTATION/CLINICAL OBSERVERSHIP) AT SLBMC?

The SLBMC Board of Directors and Executive Management are pleased to facilitate the clinical education experience for medical students enrolled and in good standing at an accredited clinical education institution and recent clinical graduates.

Testimonials

Lex.travels *I have honestly had the best month in Antigua and Barbuda working with the paediatric team @slbmedical. We were involved in daily ward rounds, newborn examinations, general paediatric clinics, theatre and much, much more. A brilliant elective experience and cannot thank the team enough...*

Georgian A. *As a medical student who has had the privilege of rotating through various departments (Medicine, Surgery, OBGYN, Pediatrics, Oncology & Anesthesiology), Observership in Radiology and Nephrology, my overall experience at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre has been great.*

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GENERAL INFORMATION

CLINICAL ROTATIONS versus OSERVERSHIPS:

CLINICAL ROTATIONS offer an incredible opportunity to sharpen your clinical skills, choose a specialty, and complete your degree requirements. They help make the jump from medical school to an internship/residency program incredibly seamless. A clinical rotation is a necessary requirement of a student's academic program. Students are placed in a supervised learning environment in which they put skills developed in the classroom into practice.

OBSERVERSHIPS on the other hand, refer to shadow-only rotations. These clinical experiences are not hands-on as there is no direct patient care involved. Medical students at varying levels of education and medical graduates can do observership. Observership programs are preferred by graduates looking to fill in gaps in their clinical education. It is a way to prove that you are still relevant in the medical field if your graduation was a while ago. They are also popular among international medical graduates. Applicants will not be directly involved with patient care.

A Clinical Observership/Rotation is intended to help healthcare learners, established medical professionals & institutions find quality clinical education.

Applicants can participate under the supervision of SLBMC Physicians in the following specialty services:

- Internal Medicine
- Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Consideration may also be given to requests for other specialties/subspecialties (including Urology, Orthopedics, ENT, Neurology, Oncology and Nephrology). **THIS OPPORTUNITY IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR INTENSIVE CARE UNIT.**

****Application forms are submitted to the Office of the Medical Director. We cannot guarantee a spot for every applicant. Placement is limited and confirmation is granted to the first applicants to satisfy the requirements.*

Remember to make the most of your experience!

WHO CAN APPLY FOR MEDICAL ATTACHMENT?

- Medical students who are currently enrolled at an accredited clinical education institution and in good standing.
- Applicants who have obtained a medical degree but have not completed an internship.
- Applicants who have completed a medical degree as well as a recognized internship programme.

I. Medical Students Observership:

Available to current medical students, graduates or if formal arrangements exist between SLBMC and a medical school. These arrangements provide short exposure to students who are in medical school. The conditions within the agreement would govern the requirements and insurance coverage. These students may have minimal patient contact. Duration for Observership may be requested/approved for a period up to 4 weeks.

II. Medical Students Clinical Rotations (Core/Electives)

Current Third- and Fourth-year students who require hands on experience as part of the curriculum requirement are eligible. Students approved for a clinical rotation (core/elective) at SLBMC and are assigned to a specific unit. These students can interact with patients and do simple history and physicals under direct supervision of the house staff. *Applications from students in earlier years are generally not accepted.*

Duration for clinical rotations may be requested/approved for a period of 4 – 12 weeks

III. Doctors who have not completed internship

- These doctors are usually local or regional physicians who are awaiting internship placement at SLBMC. They will be allowed to work alongside an Intern
- Medical Indemnity Coverage where required coverage limits are applicable while at SLBMC. It is anticipated that patient contact and interaction will occur.
- Duration for Observership may be requested/approved for a period up to 4 weeks while awaiting confirmation of internship.

IV. Doctors who have completed a formal internship and wish to do an elective.

- Doctors who have completed a formal internship and wish to rotate in-house as an elective.
- Recommendation can be requested through the head of the attachment unit.
- Medical Indemnity Coverage where required coverage limits are applicable while at SLBMC. It is anticipated that patient contact and interaction will occur.
- Duration for observership may be requested/approved for a period up to 6 months.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLINICAL ROTATION/OBSERVERSHIP:

What does an applicant need to do to be eligible for the program?

- **STEP 1:**
SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:
 - **Complete the electronic application** (SLBMC Clinical Education Request Form)
 - **Identification;** A scanned copy of the passport; biodata page. (Your photo, name and other particulars must be clearly visible.
 - **Letter of Good Standing from your medical school** (if no memorandum of understanding exists with SLBMC) / a police report from the country of your residence; it must be dated **no earlier than three months** from the submission date of your application. This can be obtained from your local police station or online via the following website (it must be a national scan).
Example: <http://www.integrascan.com/> for residents within the continental United States
 - **Certificate of Medical Indemnity Coverage** (See [Student Membership | Medical Protection](#)) if not covered by your medical school)
 - **Infectious Disease & Employee Health Division (IDEH) Requirement 1:**
Completed SLBMC Immunization Verification Form (Immunizations Summary Sheet) **in addition to copies of the following immunization records:**
 - ✓ Tuberculosis Screening (Interferon Gold/PPD/Mantoux; **within 6 months of starting rotation**)
 - ✓ 2 doses MMR
 - ✓ 3 doses Hepatitis B
 - ✓ 2 doses Varicella (Chicken Pox)
 - ✓ 3 primary doses TD
 - ✓ Booster shot – Tetanus (issued within last 10 years)

The following was introduced due to the Covid-19 pandemic: In addition to the requirements to be satisfied, elective/observership applicants must provide proof that they have been fully vaccinated (taken both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, as applicable) at least 14 days before the commencement date of the elective placement.

 - ✓ Sars2 Covid 19 (Full course of vaccination; 2 doses or 1 dose of a single dose vaccine. Booster encouraged)

Copies of each student's immunization record(s) must be documented on the SLBMC Immunization Summary form sheet provided, verified and stamped by an authorized school official/healthcare provider.

***** YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED AND A STATUS UPDATE WILL BE COMMUNICATED!
IF YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN NOTIFICATION TO PROCEED TO STEP 2, ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE ISSUED TO FACILITATE THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- **STEP 2:
SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS BEFORE 1ST DAY OF
ROTATION:**

- **Signed Confidentiality Agreement**

While at SLBMC, you may become aware or work with confidential information concerning Patients, Families, Visitors, Physicians and Staff. This information is considered confidential and should only be released to authorized personnel.

A confidentiality statement is provided to outline management's expectations regarding confidentiality. If you have any questions concerning confidential information within your area, please contact the SLBMC Clinical Coordinator or Human Resources.

- **Copy of Payment Receipt (Clinical Rotations):**

(An Invoice & payment details will be issued with the notification to proceed with STEP 2 requirements)

- **Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Infectious Disease & Employee Health Division (IDEH) additional requirement for applicants approved for CLINICAL ROTATIONS:**

Please refer to the links below for 5 short courses assigned by (IDEH) for students who will be involved with patient care UNDER SUPERVISION. These short courses are mandatory and completion certificates pertaining to antimicrobial stewardship, transmission-based precautions and standard infection prevention and control practices must be submitted.

Standard precautions: Hand hygiene | OpenWHO

<https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-HH-en>

Antimicrobial Stewardship: A competency-based approach | OpenWHO

<https://openwho.org/courses/AMR-competency>

Transmission-based Precautions | OpenWHO

<https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-TBP-EN>

COVID-19: How to put on and remove personal protective equipment (PPE) - OpenWHO

<https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-IS-EN>

Standard precautions: Injection safety and needle-stick injury - OpenWHO

<https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-IS-EN>

OR

- **Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre Infectious Disease & Employee Health Division (IDEH) additional requirement for applicants approved for OBSERVERSHIPS:**

Please refer to the links below for 5 short courses assigned by (IDEH) for students who will NOT be involved with patient care. These short courses are mandatory and completion certificates pertaining to respiratory infections, transmission-based precautions and standard infection prevention and control practices must be submitted.

ePROTECT Respiratory Infections (EN) | OpenWHO

<https://openwho.org/courses/eprotect-acute-respiratory-infections/items/1jfmzjdrIp7tpT3i69454T>

Standard precautions: Hand hygiene | OpenWHO

<https://openwho.org/courses/IPC-HH-en>

Transmission-based Precautions | OpenWHO

[Transmission-based Precautions | OpenWHO](#)

COVID-19: How to put on and remove personal protective equipment (PPE) - OpenWHO

[COVID-19: How to put on and remove personal protective equipment \(PPE\) \(openwho.org\)](#)

Standard precautions: Injection safety and needle-stick injury - OpenWHO

[Standard precautions: Injection safety and needle-stick injury \(openwho.org\)](#)

For any additional information or clarification on these short courses/ immunization requirements please contact Infectious Disease/Employee Health Division (IDEH) by email ideh@msjmc.gov.ag

IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:

Cancellation Policy

Once your assignment has been confirmed, you are expected to complete the rotation. While cancellation may be necessary, it may be effected by sending an email at the earliest opportunity SLBMC. No refund will be considered if the rotation has commenced.

Dress Code

Dress code is **professional attire** or **scrubs**. Lab coats are not required. Closed toe shoes are required.

The entire foot should be covered! (No crocs are allowed). For students undertaking an elective in Surgery, you will be required to change into clean scrubs on OT days. Please plan accordingly.

School issued student IDs must be visibly displayed (on the upper body) while on the compound.

Clinical Education IDs will be issued and must be attached to your school ID. This is to be returned at the end of your attachment.

Housing

No housing is provided. Students are responsible for their own accommodations.

Meals

Students are responsible for all of their meals. A cafeteria is located on the compound (2nd floor).

Telephone Regulations

As SLBMC fields hundreds of phone calls per day to properly care for patients and staff, the phones at SLBMC are reserved for official use only. Students are asked to refrain from making personal calls. Cell phone usage is always restricted to certain areas of the hospital for safety reasons and should only be on vibrate mode to allow for minimal disturbance.

Valuables

SLBMC is not responsible for the theft/loss of any personal effects of the students. Each person is responsible for securing his/her personal belongings. Such belongings include but are not limited to cellular phones, laptop computers, electronic organizers, cameras, purses, and wallets brought into the facility. Should there be an incident, please notify security as soon as possible. The Operations Manager should also be notified in the event a report is necessary.

Workplace Violence

As the overall safety and security at SLBMC is a vital concern for management, it is of the utmost importance that any incident that occurs should be reported to Management and Security at once. SLBMC is committed to providing a safe and secure environment that is free of violence, threats, and intimidation.

Workplace violence is defined as any physical assault, threatening behavior or verbal abuse remarks that are made in the workplace and/or affects the workplace behavior and which includes but is not limited to:

- **Verbal Abuse** – Any verbal expression issued with the intent of creating fear or intimidation in another individual, or group of individuals, or verbal remarks or comments expressed in a loud, harsh, or threatening tone of voice, or in a joking manner within the workplace.
- **Physical Abuse** – Any intentional movement of the body, which may include touching, gestures, pushing, striking, stalking or any unwanted intrusion of “reasonable space.” Any intentional use toward an individual with any object as a weapon, including but not limited to firearms, knives, clubs, metal knuckles and razors.
- **Creating a Hostile Work Environment** – Any intentional non-physical actions that can be considered intimidation or harassing with the intent of creating an environment that has the purpose or effect of unreasonable interfering with an individual’s performance, or where behaviors create a hostile or threatening environment.

SLBMC believes that any of the above forms constitute workplace violence, and any such behavior will not be condoned by SLBMC management. Therefore, should such behavior arise, the person responsible will be expelled from the remainder of the clinical rotation / formal report directed to Human Resources.

Main Number to Know: **Information Services and Help Desk** 484-2700

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When should I submit my application form?

The application form should be submitted at least 3 months before the commencement date of the elective period. Applications submitted after this date may not be processed.

What is the minimum and maximum allowed duration for a medical elective placement?

The duration of an observership placement is up to 4 weeks maximum. The minimum duration of a medical elective placement is from 4 weeks with a maximum duration at 12 weeks.

Do I need to complete the Infectious Disease & Employee Health Division (IDEH) short courses?

Yes, the certificates of completion must be submitted to the office of the Medical Director on or before the 1st day of observership/rotation.

My application was approved, but I need to change my dates of the placement. Is this possible?

A change of dates is possible, any changes must be communicated by email.

On which days and times should I be at the hospital during an elective placement?

Students are generally expected to present on the first day of elective/rotation to the Administration block (Office of the Medical Director) at 09:00am. Students must be at the hospital every day (Monday – Friday) as approved/scheduled. Times will vary from service to service but will be communicated by the lead consultant.

Are medical students allowed to join continuing medical education (CME) lectures, tutorials or simulation sessions?

Yes, medical students can attend educational sessions with the assigned specialty or if offered to all healthcare professionals.

Do I pay an Administration / Clinical Rotation Fee(s) when I submit my application?

Currently students are not asked to pay any administrative fees. The clinical rotation fee is made following receipt of invoice (issued with the letter of rotation confirmation).

What are the current standard elective fees?

Current Elective fee = USD\$275.00 per week

This fee is applicable to clinical rotations only & does not include accommodation, transportation or any other ancillary costs. Payment options will be issued with your letter of confirmation.

Can I pay the full invoice on arrival in Antigua?

Yes, it is possible for applicants to pay the full invoice on the 1st day of rotation. Please indicate any challenges in meeting this requirement.

How can I help you to improve the Medical Electives Programme?

You can submit a feedback form at the end of your experience to the Office of the Medical Director.

USEFUL LINKS /APPS:

www.visitantiguabarbuda.com (Including the latest travel advisory information/updates for Antigua & Barbuda)

[Antigua accommodation - Antigua Resorts, Hotels, Villas, Apartments, Condo \(antiguanice.com\)](http://antiguanice.com)

[Discover Antigua and Barbuda in the Eastern Caribbean \(discoverantiguabarbuda.com\)](http://discoverantiguabarbuda.com)

[AllMart - Local Marketplaces \(allmartplace.com\)](http://allmartplace.com)

[Antigua Restaurants – Quik-Serve](#)

[Guide To Driving In Antigua: Road Rules & Advice \(internationaldriversassociation.com\)](http://internationaldriversassociation.com)

[Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services \(antiguamet.com\)](http://antiguamet.com)

Antigua and Barbuda Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1ZKLBq6HFEaeDFFIXtFVS9i2OuMo&usp=sharing>

Antigua & Barbuda Public holidays: [Government of Antigua and Barbuda](#)

By keeping an open mind, focusing on learning, and taking care of yourself along the way, you could very well thrive during your rotation/observership.

Please feel free to contact the Office of the Medical Director if any additional information or clarification is required.

Office of the Medical Director

Email: Christine.Joseph@msjmc.gov.ag

Tel #: (268) 484-2788 / (268) 484-2700