



Practise & Engage

**- the IPPNW health and peace
student exchange programme**



„Practise & Engage“ (p&e) is an exchange programme for medical students organised by the German affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

IPPNW Germany has been organising this medical student exchange programme every summer since 1998. The programme consists of a four-week clinical internship at a hospital and four weeks of volunteer work in a health and/or peace project abroad for participants from Germany going to other countries. For students coming to Germany, the programme consists of a four-week clinical internship, a one-week “Global Health summer school” intensive course, organised by IPPNW Germany and Charité University Medical Faculty in Berlin, and one week of social activities. In previous years we sent up to 13 students to 13 different countries around the world and hosted up to 5 international students in Germany per year, between July and October. Project countries are Japan, Nepal, India, Kenya, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Greece and the Western Balkan countries.

IPPNW Germany covers 75% of the travel costs of German students that participate. These students have to finance their own insurance and all other expenses. Depending on the country, IPPNW Germany also partly or sometimes fully covers the expenses of visiting students.

Our goal

The “practise & engage” programme does not merely seek opportunities for medical practice and social activities overseas or in Germany. We regard our task to be the broadening of medical students’ horizons, allowing them to become more aware of differences and disparities in access to health globally. We also want to help students discover their unique role as a future health workers in the prevention of violence and promotion of peace. This is why p&e also includes a preparation and reflection/evaluation process. Together, German students prepare themselves for their trip and analyse their experiences afterwards. Part and parcel of the preparation is also absolving the Medical Peace Work online course, co-authored by several IPPNW affiliates. All participants are expected to outline in a full report what they learnt from the experience and also to identify the potential and problems for the project they were part of. These reports play an important part in the decision-making and the planning of those who are to follow them.

In Germany and in our partner countries, IPPNW doctors, socially active medical students and p&e alumni assist exchange students with practical questions and other issues. We are most grateful to these partners and alumni. Without them the programme could not function. Since the creation of the programme in 1998, strong and reliable contacts have been developed through cooperation between IPPNW Germany and our programme partners, which has brought IPPNW affiliates closer together and stimulated exchange. In

this way, “Practise & Engage” contributes to the fact that the international IPPNW federation is not only active in leading bodies, but also at grass-roots level. Moreover, p&e alumni play an important role in the generational renewal of IPPNW affiliates.

The participants

The ideal candidates are medical students in their third year or higher. They are IPPNW student members, or interested in becoming members, and have a strong interest in global health, human rights, nuclear disarmament or health through peace perspectives. Social engagement and commitment as medical students serve as assets in the selection of the candidate. Participants commit themselves to contribute to the programme as alumni for at least one year after they have participated as an exchange student. The selection of participants is the responsibility of each project partner. As part of the preparation, partners assure that selected candidates complete at least two of seven of our Medical Peace Work online courses. <http://www.medicalpeacework.org/mpw-courses.html>

Our **criteria guidelines** for the selection of candidates are:

Hard criteria

- medical student in third year of studies or higher
- IPPNW student member or at least interested in becoming a member
- interest in IPPNW topics like Global Health, Medical Peace Work, abolition of nuclear weapons, health and human rights, etc.
- socially or politically active (preferable)
- successful completion of two of seven Medical Peace Work online courses (Course 1 and one course of student’s own choice). Certificates to be sent to IPPNW Germany as proof before arrival.

Soft criteria

- intercultural competence
- pro-active character, capacity to take initiative
- mature (enough)
- open-minded, flexible and tolerant
- capacity to deal with new and challenging situations

For this programme students marks are not relevant.