

# PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL NURSING IMMERSION EXPERIENCE



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## 01 Background

In an increasingly interconnected society, global considerations and experiences are critical in developing well-rounded, culturally competent professional nurses. Nurses need to be able to understand healthcare issues that transcend geographical and national borders; they need to nurture and fuel cultural competence and consciousness. Global experience can deepen empathy, respect, and understanding of diverse populations; and ultimately help drive a global effort of working towards health equity.

## 02 Partnership

The University of Michigan—Ann Arbor and Salokaya College of Nursing, New Delhi, India partnered in 2012 as a realization of the needs of this increasingly global world. Since 2015, there have been 12 programs geared towards immersing UMSN students in global health. The programs were interrupted in 2020, and after COVID-19 the next program is set to begin July 2023.

## 03 Introduction

The paper explores the planning of the clinical, experiential 4-week program facilitated by the Nursing School in New Delhi, India. It will encompass the program development process, pre-program orientation and cultural education considerations, and program itinerary.

## 04 Orientation Objectives

### Pre-Program Education and Orientation

- Social Norms
- Cultural Norms
- Health Care system structure
- Roles of Health Care professional and Hospital hierarchical structures
- Patient rights and beliefs

### Pedagogical Goals: Integration of Social Learning, and Structured Reflection

## 05 Field Objectives & Outlines

### Observations in Clinical Fields

- Government Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Rural Health Training Center and Primary Health Center
- Mental and Neurological Health Hospital
- Palliative Care NGO

### Cultural Goals:

- Students will have an opportunity to experience the diverse and rich culture and society of India.
- Historical Sites Tour
  - Indian Markets
  - Informal Interactions with Nursing Students

### Academic Goals:

Students will learn about the Indian nursing education system through lectures and direct interactions.

- UMSN students will be paired with Salokaya student nurses, shadow classes, and live in Salokaya.
- UMSN students will learn about the Indian education system from Salokaya faculty
- UMSN students will interact with Salokaya College nurses in activities and guided discussions about educational experiences

## 06 Conclusion

While the program development, itinerary, and orientation materials are completed, the implementation of the Orientation in Spring 2023 is ongoing and the Field and Immersion program begins in July 2023.

Furthermore, considerations for increasing equity in exchange are being considered. Orientation for nursing students at Salokaya is in development.

## 07 Next Steps

Based on constructive feedback and qualitative observations by participants and facilitators, the program will be modified for future cohorts. Furthermore, the immersion program will be the basis of an ongoing research project to evaluate the impact of the international immersion program on nursing students' self-perceived cultural competence and other culturally influenced perspectives.