

Description of the international visiting health information professionals

The program exists to enable visiting health information professionals (VIPs), including medical librarians, and their institutions to provide the best information and services possible to medical professionals and health consumers globally. By facilitating a VIP program, MLA hopes to foster international cooperation, communications, awareness, exchange of ideas, and professional excellence.



To learn more about the program, visit the website:

http://ics.mlanet.org/blogsite/?page_id=104

Questions about the program?
Please contact us!

InternationalVIP@ics.mlanet.org



The International Cooperation Section (ICS) is a section of the Medical Library Association (MLA).

MLA/ICS International Visiting Health Information Professionals Program



Connecting health information professionals around the world



Host Institution Information

A potential host institution is a library or information center in an academic health sciences center, hospital, or other health-related organization. The host institution must also provide a preceptor that will be the main contact person and host and manager for the program.

Host institutions will be selected and matched with carefully selected individuals based on the application form, found on the website.

Potential project areas should be identified and discussed to help match institutions with individuals to help achieve their goals. Project areas can include but are not limited to:

- Public Health
- Bioinformatics and/or translational sciences
- Clinical librarianship and/or clinical informatics
- Outreach to underserved or previously unreached populations
- Management and curation of e-only health sciences collections
- Digitization
- Data Curation
- Specialized library experience (veterinary, academic, science, etc.)
- Instruction and Instructional Design

Individual Applicant Information

A potential individual applicant is any active MLA member or active member of an association in bilateral agreement with the MLA and also from an institution willing to sponsor their exchange. The international applicant is not an employee of the hosting institution. The applicant must be working or preparing to work in a health science library in his or her own country. The applicant must verify that he/she can provide his/her own financial support that includes, but is not limited to travel, visa, housing, and medical support. A U.S. applicant must be an MLA member from an institution willing to sponsor the exchange.

Individuals will be selected and matched with carefully selected host institutions based on the application form, found on the website.



The MLA/ICS International Visiting Health Information Professionals Task Force will select, match, and inform the individual and the institution about their match once completed.

Selection Process

Individual applications will be reviewed by the MLA/ICS International Visiting Health Information Professionals Task Force on a continuing basis. Applications can be submitted at anytime; however, individual and host institution applications will be considered by the Task Force on the first of January, April, July, and October. Applicants should have their materials submitted two weeks before the meeting date by which they wish to be considered.

Placement announcements are made four weeks after each meeting. Approval is determined by the selection criteria evidenced in the application form, found on the website.

The Task Force will match selected individuals and host institutions based on their applications. A list of approved institutions will be sent to partner international library associations quarterly, so that individuals can express interest in visiting specific host institutions. Host institutions are selected to join the job exchange program by the Task Force as well. The Task Force will inform the individual and the institution about their mutual match and provide both parties with guidelines.