



Simón Bolívar
Foundation™

Scholarship Program

Diploma en Medicina Tropical, Baylor College of Medicine

The Simon Bolivar Foundation (Foundation), a private 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation, in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine, will fund up to eight scholarships to qualified medical professionals working in Venezuela for a world-class Diploma in Tropical Medicine from Baylor's National School of Tropical Medicine. <https://www.bcm.edu/education/national-school-of-tropical-medicine/education/diploma-in-tropical-medicine/schedule>

The Fundación Academia Nacional de Medicina Francisco Antonio Rísquez (FANM) in Venezuela will play a key role in assisting the Foundation with dissemination of information to potential scholarship candidates in the country and the development of an objective process to identify qualified candidates to be recommended to apply for a scholarship to Baylor College of Medicine for a Diploma in the Tropical Medicine program.

Objective of the Programme

Upon completion of the Diploma of Tropical Medicine, the student will be able to:

- Perform basic diagnostic procedures and identify organisms that cause tropical diseases;
- Describe critical basic concepts of epidemiology, biostatistics, ethics, economics and health policy, and other public health topics related to global health, and apply the appropriate type of statistics to analyze data;
- Recognize and describe the epidemiology, diagnosis, management, and prevention of tropical diseases (e.g., HTLV-1, yellow fever, Lyme disease, diphtheria, malaria, etc.);
- Describe the biology of vectors involved in the transmission of certain pathogens and public health methods to control or prevent these diseases;
- Describe the principles and management of childhood diseases, reproductive health, and current approaches to addressing the health needs of women and children;
- Apply various clinical subspecialties focused on the tropics related to tropical medicine; and
- Discuss pre-trip assessment and post-trip work and differential diagnosis for returning travelers.

Study Curriculum

Module 1: Tropical Bacteriology and Virology

Jan 2-26, 2024

Asynchronous online conferencing

Module 2: Tropical Parasitology and Mycology

Face-to-face, synchronous conferences; for the participants of the Simon Bolivar Foundation Scholarship Program, alternative asynchronous recorded lectures will be made.

Jan 29- Feb.9, 2024



Module 3: Tropical Medicine in Practice

Prerequisite: Module 2

Face-to-face, synchronous conferences; for the participants of the Simon Bolivar Foundation Scholarship Program, alternative asynchronous recorded lectures will be made.

Feb.12-16, 2024

Laboratory practices (hands-on in-person laboratory sessions covering bacteriology, virology, parasitology, and mycology. An alternative institution in Venezuela may be allowed to offer in-person, hands-on classes on bacteriology, virology, parasitology, and mycology upon written request.

Prerequisite: Module 1 and 2

Module 4: Epidemiology, Public Health (online asynchronous lectures)**

Feb.26- March 22, 2024

The order in which you take the modules is flexible to allow you to align your study with your other obligations. All modules are offered once a year and you have 36 months to complete all modules. The Foundation would prefer that all modules be completed in the program in 2024. If this is not possible, we would ask for explanations of why it was not completed during that period.

**A student may be exempt from taking Module 4 if they can present a valid MPH diploma from an accredited U.S. or foreign university. If a diploma is not available, a letter from the registrar of the accredited university must be sent to the School directly confirming the degree.

Course Modality

For students awarded scholarships through the Simon Bolivar Foundation Scholarship Program, the program will be through recorded online lectures. Laboratory practice may be in an alternative home institution, in person, practical laboratory upon written request.

Type of diploma or degree awarded

The Diploma in Tropical Medicine is an intensive non-degree program consisting of four modules and a laboratory practice. Completion of this program will prepare healthcare professionals to obtain the CTropMed®: "Certificate of Knowledge in Tropical Clinical Medicine and Traveler's Health" which is a separate exam. [See more information here.](#)

To obtain the diploma, all four modules must be successfully completed within 36 months. The Foundation would prefer that all modules be completed in 2024. Although we understand that there may be relevant circumstances that do not allow it, in which case we would expect a letter of justification of reasons.

Requirements defined by Baylor

The courses of the Diploma in Tropical Medicine program are designed for physicians who have an M.D. or D.O. degree including physicians, residents, fellows and postdoctoral fellows.

Requirements requested by Baylor to apply to the program:



- Training that includes academic qualifications, research and work experience, honors, awards, scholarships and publications.
- Transcripts: Applicants must submit official transcripts or a copy of the medical diploma and physicians' license. (Registered diploma at Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Salud (MPPS)
- Letters of Recommendation: Non-Baylor applicants must provide three (3) letters of recommendation. (Template will be provided)
- A personal statement explaining why they want to obtain a Diploma in Tropical Medicine.
- A brief describing the relevant previous experience within developing countries or the anticipated relevance of this program.
- English Proficiency Requirement (for Foreign Applicants): Applicants whose native language is not English must earn a minimum TOEFL score of 90 on the Internet-based test (ibt) or 610 on the TOEFL ITP Plus or 6.5 on IELTS tests taken within the last two years. The TOEFL/IELTS requirement does not apply to individuals who have received a degree from a U.S. university for foreign medical graduates.

Selection criteria for Simon Bolivar Foundation

The Foundation provided the following criteria to be selected to be recommended by the Foundation to apply to the program. The National Academy of Medicine may add other criteria that help to better define the selected candidates:

- Surgeons graduated from a university, even with specialties, with a good academic performance
- Good command of English (see TOEFL requirements)
- Outstanding professional career
- Professionals, with a desire to stay in the country at least for the next two (2) years, and transfer knowledge in Venezuela. We appreciate geographic diversity.

Selection process

Candidates must submit their application, including the requirements that will be required for the final application to Baylor, to the FANM via email to fundacionacademiademedicina@gmail.com no later than June 10, 2023.

The Foundation expects the National Academy of Medicine to submit a recommendation of eight candidates to apply to Baylor College of Medicine who must meet the requirements, including the result of the TOEFL test.

The proposed international candidates will be evaluated by the Foundation, including due diligence reviews, and will need to apply online to the program before Sept 1, 2023 by as per Baylor set dates in 2023. Baylor College of Medicine must approve all candidates who will participate in the program, which decision is expected to be announced in fall 2023. Program will start on January 2, 2024. Candidates must be able to display the TOEFL result during the enrollment process.

Dr. Denise Maman will be Simon Bolivar Foundation's contact person, who will coordinate communications with Baylor College of Medicine.

The Foundation reserves the right to adjust criteria, procedures or requirements in the interest of the scholarship awarding process and to modify or cancel the program at any time and for any reason.



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Exclusions

Each of the candidates must notify the National Academy of Medicine and the Foundation of any conflicts of interest in connection with the program or if the candidate is an employee of the Foundation, CITGO Petroleum Corporation ("CITGO"), Petróleos de Venezuela SA ("PDVSA") or any affiliate or subsidiary of the Foundation, or related to any person employed by the Foundation, CITGO or PDVSA; and/or the oil ministry of the Venezuelan government. The term government of Venezuela will be interpreted in its broadest sense. Likewise, each candidate must not be a member of any political parties, an activist in political groups, a political candidate or active member of any political organizations or campaigns.

Online Application at Baylor

Applications can be made on Baylor College of Medicine's website beginning in summer 2023 until September 1, 2023, for international applicants. Please monitor Baylor application dates. The online application and all supporting documentation (e.g., transcripts, letters of recommendation) must be submitted by the due date.

Online application (use Chrome on a Windows PC): Applicants must complete the **online** application for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine. The online application can be completed in several sessions.

Schedule of activities

The program below requires discussion, especially in the times estimated by Fundación Academia Nacional de Medicina Francisco Antonio Rísquez, to carry out the selection process. To be accepted, candidates must show TOEFL results. The TOEFL can be presented at specific centers or online, but they require bandwidth and cameras that are very expensive. Therefore, it is important that each candidate register early and take the exams no later than July 31, 2023.



| | 2Q2023 | | | 3Q2023 | | | 4Q2023 | | | 1Q2024 | | | 3Q2024 | | |
|--|--------|------|-------|--------|--------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|-------|--------|------|-------|
| | Abril | Mayo | Junio | Julio | Agosto | Septiembre | Octubre | Noviembre | Diciembre | Enero | Febrero | Marzo | Abril | Mayo | Junio |
| Proceso selección candidatos | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anuncio convocatoria estudiantes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conformación Jurado | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Definición Criterios evaluación estudiantes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presentación de Credenciales | | | ◆ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entrevistas | | | ◆ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pre-Selección de Candidatos ANM | | | ◆ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Selección final de candidatos SBF | | | | ◆ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOERL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exámenes TOERL en Caracas | | | | 15-Jul | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proceso Aplicación Baylor | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proceso de aplicación en la página web de Baylor | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Notificación a los estudiantes aceptados | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diplomado | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Modulo 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Modulo 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Modulo 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laboratorio | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Modulo 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Frequently asked questions

Is the diploma delivered registered and apostilled in the case of foreign students?

We understand that Baylor College of Medicine only delivers the diploma. If you wish to obtain an apostille, the process is the responsibility of the student.

Evaluation process for Baylor course students

The question is if there are exams, and minimum grade to complete each module?

Possibility and facilities for graduates of the diploma to visit Baylor and face-to-face practice

It is not included in this program. For this program only the cost of 10 scholarships in total for remote participation is covered. The modality for this program is online and practices through a laboratory in the country. If this initiative works, we can consider physical participation in future editions of the program. We see this as a pilot program with Baylor College of Medicine and the National Academy of Medicine, as well as the opportunity to build bridges between the two organizations.