**Course Title:** International Pharmacy Services – Japan

**Course Number:** PHBA 428

**Course Credits:** 3 credits

The goal of the study abroad experience portion of the International Pharmacy Services course is to enhance student understanding of the healthcare system and pharmacy services in Japan through didactic preparation, on-site interactions and experiences, reflection, and analysis.

**Course Description:** The course is designed to explore pharmacy and general health-care issues of Japan. The course is an integration of didactic instruction with on-site visits to pharmacy operations and academic institutions in countries with whom the School of Pharmacy has an academic affiliation or intent to collaborate. Emphasis is placed on students being exposed to the healthcare/pharmacy system for a brief period of time followed by reflection and analysis of the experience as part of the course requirement.

**Course Faculty:**
Khalid M. Kamal, M.Pharm., PhD
Associate Professor
Division of Pharmaceutical, Administrative and Social Sciences
Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy
418 B Mellon, 600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15282
Voice: 412-396-1926  I  Fax: 412-396-5130
Email: kamalk@duq.edu

**Course Objectives:**

- Describe the role of pharmacists in hospital (health systems) and community pharmacy in Japan.
- Compare and contrast the pharmacy services of Japan with that of the US health system and community pharmacists.
- Give examples of patient/pharmacist and pharmacist/physician interactions
- Determine the challenges facing pharmacists to offer pharmacy services effectively and efficiently.
- Propose an action plan to address the challenges identified from their experiences with pharmacists who would like to offer innovative pharmacy services.
**Course Method:** The educational strategy of incorporating the study abroad component of the course is to increase the student’s awareness and give first-hand experience with the involvement of pharmacy in the healthcare environment. The overall approach is to have the student formulate their “vision” of the healthcare system through didactic instruction and discussions prior to the visit and following several observational experiences in community and hospital pharmacy settings, as well as exploring academic pharmacy strategies, the student will be able to describe, observe, and compare the experience to the “perceived” functions of a pharmacist and the healthcare system in the visiting country. Through the use of an academic journal, they can assess all of the objectives throughout the experience.

**Assessment:** Students will be assessed on their ability to meet the learning objectives by in-class participation in discussions, the content of the academic journal, and the completeness and validity of their assessment and action plan for addressing the challenges of pharmacy in the healthcare environment in Japan.

1. Students will be assigned readings concerning the healthcare system in Japan and will be required to present a synopsis of their findings prior to the trip.
2. The students will write a reflection paper of the advantages and challenges of the healthcare system in Japan and how their system compares to the US-HS. They will prepare a series of questions that will be asked during the meetings with various individuals in pharmacy practice and academic pharmacy.
3. A meeting involving acclimation to the cultural differences of Japan will be explored. The student is expected to understand the cultural differences that affect healthcare delivery in Japan.
4. Students will be taught by a Japanese teacher on cultural etiquettes and the Japanese language.
5. Students are required to develop an academic journal of their experience in Japan. Specific expectations of the journal and how it will be assessed will be discussed. The journal entries will be discussed as part of the wrap-up of the experiences at the following: Kobe Medical General Hospital (Pharmacy Department), Mediceo Paltac Holdings Co. Ltd (Pharmaceutical Wholesaler), Japanese Medicine Pharmacy (Kanpo), Pharmaceutical company (Takeda), and Futatsuka Pharmacy (Community Pharmacy). The students will also be asked to record the similarities and differences in the pharmacy education, pharmacy practice, and the healthcare systems of Japan and the United States.

**2017 Trip Highlights**

Travel Dates: May 26 – June 11, 2017 (16 days)

**Lectures:** Japanese Healthcare System and Practice of Pharmacy in Japan

**Site Visits:** Hospital, Pharmacy, Wholesalers, Pharmaceutical Companies (Takeda), Kanpo (Japanese Pharmacy)

**Sightseeing Trips:** Kobe, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Osaka, Fukuoka, and Tokyo (Includes Bullet train rail passes & other ground transportation).

**Visit to Kobe Gakuin University, Kobe & Daiichi University, Fukuoka**