

10th April, 2008

RE: IFMSA August Meeting Delegates - Call for Applications

Dear Colleagues,

The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) is proud to open applications for the Australian delegation to attend the 57th August General Assembly (GA) of the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA). This year's August Meeting will be held in **Ocho Rios, Jamaica** from the **7th to the 13th of August, 2008**.

The IFMSA, the largest medical student organization in the world, is dedicated to the work of helping the world's poorest through projects, initiatives and other endeavours. It is the goal of the IFMSA to help produce future doctors who are culturally aware, internationally-minded and have a broad understanding of the issues and consequences that encompass global health.

The IFMSA March GA, held last year in Mandurah, Western Australia provided medical students from all over the world with the opportunity to meet and discuss issues of multinational relevance, ranging from the Millennium Development Goals to the influence of globalization on international medical curricula. As many Australian students can now attest, the IFMSA GA, under its various themes (Public Health, Reproductive Health and AIDS, Human Rights and Peace), provides a unique forum for future doctors to participate and engage in global health on the world stage.

In Jamaica, the theme for this August Meeting will be "**Nutrition and Health**", a health issue that affects all areas of the world in different contexts. The academic stream of the conference will address a broad array of aspects exploring how nutrition may negatively influence the health of communities, and aims to develop student-led practical solution, such as initiatives, advocacy pathways, and awareness campaigns, to combat such challenges.

Important Details

AMSA is allowed to send **a total of 16 delegates** to the August Meeting. We are hoping to select the delegation as early as possible to help minimise the costs of airfares and conference registration and to allow delegates to organise their finances accordingly.

Selection of delegates

Applicants must complete the following for their application:

1. Write an *expression letter of interest* (maximum 1 page) which outlines the reasons why you would like to attend the IFMSA GA, why you believe that you should be selected, and how you will utilize your new knowledge and skills upon your return to your local medical school and associated student group/s.
2. Complete a *CV* (max 2 pages) that highlights your education, skills, qualities, interests, and experience, particularly in the global health field.

Applications can be sent via email to the AMSA Global Health Officer before **5pm AEDST, 2nd May 2008**. Applications received after this time will not meet the eligibility criteria.

The final selection of delegates will be made over the following days and **successful applicants will be notified by the 9th of May**. *Please make sure you will be in contact for this period of time, as time between notification and online registration will be very limited.* In the event that AMSA is unable to contact a selected delegate after reasonable efforts are made in a reasonable timeframe, the organizers may need to select other applicants in their place. A number of delegates will be informed that they are on a reserve list, in the case of a delegate having to withdraw from the conference.

Cost

AMSA is aware that participation in a GA comes with a significant financial burden. Although AMSA will provide assistance in the form of advice and official letters of support, it is unable to directly subsidise the cost of attending the GA. Previous delegates have reduced such costs through means of sponsorship and grants with varied success. If the delegate position is accepted, however, the delegate must accept full responsibility of the cost associated with attending the GA and, if necessary, be prepared to use personal contributions to fund their participation in the event in the event of incomplete external financial support.

Registration: The cost of registration has been set by the Organising Committee of the General Assembly and will vary between around AUD\$590 and AUD\$750.

Flights: The cost of flights to Jamaica will range from \$3000 - \$3500.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the selection process or funding queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Global Health Officer.

I would strongly encourage any student interested in global health to take this unique opportunity to attend a General Assembly. With over 850 students from almost 100 countries, the GA is a unique opportunity to experience multinational national collaboration at a global scale.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Kind regards,

Jake Parker
Global Health Officer
Australian Medical Students' Association

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