Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC)
Moshi, Tanzania

Updated July 2017

General Information

This site can accept DO students. They can accept 2 DMU students at a time. The hospital is primarily Swahili speaking but the attendings, residents and students all speak English. Knowledge of Swahili is not required, but many residents of Moshi and patients at the hospital only speak Swahili. Therefore, it is beneficial to try to learn as much Swahili as you can before this rotation as it will help you communicate.

Visa

You should get your visa at the airport upon arrival in Tanzania to avoid any confusion over the type of visa. KCMC requires students to have the business visa (may also be called the “government work visa”), which costs US $250. Do NOT get the tourist visa, which is cheaper. If you get the tourist visa, you will be required to get the business visa before you can start your rotation and then you’ll end up paying for two visas.

Site Information/ Health Care Environment

KCMC is a referral hospital for over 15 million people in Northern Tanzania. The hospital is a huge complex with 500-800 inpatients in 630 official beds, 90 canvas, 40 baby Incubators, 1852 students, 1300 staff and 1000 visitors and companions daily. The hospital welcomes students in the following departments:

- Internal Medicine
- Emergency Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Dermatology
- Urology
- ENT
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthopedics
- General Surgery
- Anesthesia
- Pathology

Website: [http://www.kcmc.ac.tz/](http://www.kcmc.ac.tz/)

**Contact Information**

**Site Coordinator**  
Aneth  
Telephone: 255 27 2754377/83  
Email: international@kcmc.ac.tz

In case of emergency – phone numbers are listed below:  
  Emergency/Police: 112; 999  
  U.S. Embassy (Ask for American Citizen Services): 255-22-229-4000  
  DMU Emergency phone line which is answered 24 hrs./7 days a week 1-515-271-1471

**Estimated Costs**

The nearest airport to Moshi is Kilimanjaro International Airport (airport code JRO). Round trip airfare to JRO from Des Moines runs between $1700-2000. If you fly from a larger city in the U.S., you can find cheaper airfare. As mentioned above, the cost of the visa upon arrival is $250. KCMC charges a registration fee of $150 and another $150 per month for living accommodations (single or double room depending on vacancies). You must pay for electricity in addition to the housing fee (the cost varies depending on how much electricity you use – probably $20-$60 for the month). Additional costs: food (there is a shared kitchen in the accommodations for cooking) and (optional) souvenirs and weekend trips. Bring the money for the visa, registration, housing and electricity in cash.

**Money**

The currency in Tanzania is the Tanzanian Shilling. U.S. $1.00 is equal to approximately 2,240 TZS. It is recommended that you exchange money in downtown Moshi or near the hospital.
because the exchange rate is better there. You should bring new dollar bills in good condition for exchange. You will use cash for mostly everything and rarely use credit cards.

**Accommodations**

The housing is in the KCMC Doctor’s Compound. All houses in the compound have four bedrooms (3 doubles and 1 single) with two bathrooms and one shower. There is also a kitchen, dining room, living room and outside veranda. The water on the Doctor’s Compound is safe to drink (however, elsewhere in Moshi and Tanzania you should only drink bottled or boiled water). The hospital is about a 15-minute easy and safe walk from the compound. However, it can be muddy and very hot depending on the time of year.

**Cell phones/Wi-Fi**

SimCards – You can buy SimCards just outside the hospital, ask Aneth where to find the kiosks. You can then just use your own phone. A SIM card costs around $10 for 10GB (plenty of data for the month). This is a good option because there is no Wi-Fi at KCMC. There are some internet cafes in Moshi.

If you want to use your U.S. phone as is, check with your cell phone provider to see what options they have for international plans. For example, T Mobile has an international plan for $70/month. Verizon has a pay-as-you go data plan for Tanzania. You may not be able to make calls to Tanzania phones with these plans, however. Using Whatsapp is recommended as it’s the most popular way to communicate.

**Cultural/Safety Considerations**

Boda Bodos (cheap motorcycle taxis) are very dangerous and it is strongly recommended that you do not use these for transportation. They can also be dangerous for you when you are walking. Always peek around a stopped vehicle or an obstructed view in the road to make sure that a boda boda isn’t flying by.

Bargaining for almost everything is acceptable – you should plan to bargain for souvenirs, food vendors, street vendors, taxi, etc. You should not bargain in stores where there set prices, such as grocery stores.

Everything moves very slowly in Moshi. It’s not uncommon for dinners to take several hours. The pace at KCMC follows this mantra as well. Prepare yourself for a much slower pace of living.

Although Moshi is generally safe at night, it is best not to walk alone after dark.