Health Professions
Summer Study Tour

Muscat, Oman, July 20 – August 1, 2015
Sponsored by University of Nebraska Medical Center
Directorate General of Human Resources Development, Oman Ministry of Health
Information Session

- Describe tour
- Why Oman
- Cultural aspects

Salaam Alaikum – may the peace be upon you
To better understand Middle East society and Islamic culture from a healthcare perspective in a safe and structured study tour

- **Study Tour Outcomes:**
  - Compare and contrast health care delivery systems between Oman and the US
  - Compare and contrast point of contact health care delivery in hospital and clinic settings
  - Develop an awareness of Middle East culture and customs
  - Develop an appreciation for Islamic religion

- Omaha departure on July 20
- Muscat departure July 30
Pre-travel activities

- Two pre-travel meetings
  - Meeting 1 – cultural and historical information
    - Imam for Islamic primer
    - Omani student in Omaha to learn recent history
  - Meeting 2 – travel information
    - Route
    - What to pack
    - general health and safety practices
    - communications, transportation, and conduct
    - Complete pre-travel assessment
In country activities

- Learn basic Arabic phrases
- Cross-cultural examination of point of contact health care delivery
  - Shadow health providers in hospital, institutes, and clinics
  - Round table discussions with hospital and ministry officials about public health concerns and initiatives
- Cultural excursions
  - Souqs, museums, parks,
  - Engage in typical Oman/Muscat pastime activities
- Evening debriefing sessions over dinner
- Complete post-travel assessment 1 week after return to Omaha
Option to earn 1-credit for participating in study tour

- To earn the credit, two additional assignments for completion:
  - Keep a daily record (journal, blog, vlog) expounding or exploring personal impressions, emotions, observations, prejudices, or new learning/understanding
  - Synthesis of how you were affected by the study tour and how your practice might be changed as a result of the experience.
    - Any media acceptable
      - Editorial to journal/newspaper, oral presentation, artistic representation (music, poem, sculpture, etc.)
  - discuss ahead of time to address details
  - Due August 14, midnight
  - Sign up for MSIA 998: Special Topics with Dr. Laura Bilek
**Costs**

Preliminary student cost is estimated at $2728 inclusive of airfare, lodging, transportation, meals, visa, insurance, entry fees, and incidentals.

Conversion: Oman Rial - OMR 1 = US dollar $2.6  Cost are given in US$

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<th></th>
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<th>daily $/pp</th>
<th>number days</th>
<th>total</th>
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<tr>
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<td>total per person</td>
<td></td>
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Why Oman?
- **0-14 years**: 30.6%
- **15-24 years**: 20.2%
- **25-54 years**: 42.1%
- **55-64 years**: 3.9%
- **65 years ↑**: 3.2%

Median age - 24.7

Life expectancy - 74.7
Contemporary health problems

- Diabetes
  - 15% (+ - 3%) prevalence
- CVD and HTN
  - 40yrs and up
- Obesity
- Cancer
  - Breast & colon
- Congenital disabilities
- Hematologic dyscrasias
  - Hemophilia, thalasemia

Defies Arab or Islamic stereotypes

- Moderate form of Islam practiced - Ibadi
- Girls and women:
  - Drive
  - Outnumber males in college
  - Hold high level government positions
  - Vote
  - Date
- Representative democratic government structure
Health care standards similar to U.S.

- Sultan Qaboos University Hospital has ISO accreditation and currently working for ACI
- Recent review by Dr. Philip Dickson to be first NCLEX test site in Middle East
- SQU nursing program working toward NLNAC accreditation
- OMSB working toward ACGMEi accreditation of residency programs
LONG HISTORY OF U.S.-OMANI RELATIONS

Sayyid Said bin Sultan signed Treaty of Friendship and Navigation with the U.S. in 1833.
September 21, 2011 - said Josh Fattal, "Our deepest gratitude goes toward his majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman for obtaining our release. We're sincerely grateful for the government of Oman for hosting us and our families."
The Sultan of Oman was the courier of written letters between President Hassan Rhouhani and President Barak Obama, reigniting diplomatic relations damaged during Arab Spring, Green Movement, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 2004</td>
<td>U.S., Oman sign Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2005</td>
<td>Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations begin in Muscat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late 2005</td>
<td>Oman takes delivery of F-16s</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2006</td>
<td>U.S. and Oman sign Free Trade Agreement</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>FTA fully ratified by Congress</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>American hikers freed from Iranian prison with Oman’s intervention; Secretary Clinton visits twice; 6 new Boeings and 12 new F-16s ordered</td>
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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

- Alternative to Straits of Hormuz
- Close to UAE Market
- Gateway to Africa and Asia
- First-world Infrastructure
The uniqueness that is Oman

- Women’s rights
  - % women holding high level government positions

- Expatriates are not expected to dress like an Oman citizen

- English spoken predominately through health sector and by many Omani’s – signs in Arabic and English

- Very low crime rate – very safe

- Geo-politically stable – ‘Switzerland of Middle East’

Information Session – in Conclusion

- Describe tour
  - Activities – cost – purpose – structure (credit/non-credit)

- Why Oman
  - US-Oman geo-political relations
  - Omanization
  - Economic diversification

- Cultural aspects
  - Middle Eastern culture
  - Islamic society
  - Safety – ex-patriate expectations – women’s rights - geography
“You are not here to merely make a living.

You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with finer spirit of hope and achievement.

You are here to enrich the world and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”

~~Woodrow Wilson