



Caribbean Medical University

*Discover More*



**2022**

Student  
Orientation Guide

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## A Warm Welcome



I am pleased to welcome you in print and on line to the prospectus of the Caribbean Medical University (CMU). We are very proud of our new and innovative educational venture. We hope to join the United States, United Kingdom, and European Community in the training of scientifically expert and clinically competent physicians who are also imbued with the best and most compassionate aspects of the ancient philosophical, spiritual and social traditions of American and European medicine.

The core values of CMU are integrity, teamwork, innovation, excellence, leadership and professionalism. We at CMU strive for the highest ethical standards in the performance of our duties. We hope to achieve success through collective performance, adaptability and mutual respect. We are striving to find the most effective and efficient way of educating new physicians through the pursuit and embrace of new ideas and creative solutions.

We are proudly committed to achieving superior results and to exceeding the expectations of our American, British and European colleagues. Administration, faculty, staff and students are all committed to go willingly and enthusiastically beyond what is expected, in order to follow bold leadership and give leadership to others to achieve superior results in medical education. We will put the welfare of colleagues, students and patients above our own interests, and will strive for altruism, accountability and respect for others.

We invite you to learn more about this exciting trans-national and trans-cultural adventure in medical education. We hope that this program will represent a new paradigm for the training of physicians of the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marek Malecki MD PhD".

Dr. Marek Malecki, MD, PhD

Dean of the School of Medicine

## Mission Statement

Caribbean Medical University's mission is to graduate doctors, who are competent in a broad range of diagnostic, consultative, communicative, and organizational skills; who are conscious of their social responsibilities; who are committed to lifelong learning and research as a foundation to providing high quality patient-centered care; and who are willing to engage with other health care professionals and services in advocating for the health care needs of society.

CMU is dedicated to educating medical students in accordance with the highest professional standards; to prepare clinicians that practice patient-centered medicine of the highest standard; and to answer fundamental questions in the mechanisms, prevention, and treatment of disease through health care delivery and in the basic sciences.

We are committed to providing quality medical education programs that will offer assurance to society and the medical community that CMU graduates are competent health care professionals, while instilling confidence in our students that they will receive a useful and valid education.



The aim of the curriculum of the School of Medicine is to produce leaders in medicine, who will take the foundation of a broad education in medicine, to improve health through patient care, and research. Caribbean Medical University provides the opportunity for qualified students to acquire a sound basic education in medicine, and to foster their development of lifelong habits in scholarship and service. We are dedicated to preserve, transmit, and apply humanity's accumulated knowledge and skills to develop graduates whose accomplishments attest to their intellectual discipline.

CMU provides students with a superior medical education, while preparing them to pass the U.S. Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE), and for future licensing exams that allow the practice medicine in the United States.

## Course of Study

Caribbean Medical University, based on the accreditation of the main campus in Curacao, is permitted to offer the following academic programs:

- 3-semester Premedical Science Program (Premed);
- 12-semester Medical Science Program (MD);

The Premed curriculum is comprised of 3 semesters (12 months) and is taught online. Students who complete the Premed program in good standing automatically enter into the MD program.

The MD curriculum is comprised of 12 semesters: 6 semesters of Basic Medical Sciences taught in Curacao, and 6 semesters of Clinical Medical Sciences taught at affiliated hospitals and approved training centers in the U.S.

CMU graduates participate in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and are eligible for U.S. residency.

### Premedical Program (3 semesters)

The Premed Program is designed for those highly motivated individuals who have decided to pursue a career in medicine but who have no college experience. It provides students with the sound foundation needed to be accepted directly into the MD Program.

### MD Program (12 semesters)

The curriculum leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree is designed to provide medical education that prepares graduates comprehensively for residency training, provides them the experience upon which to base their career selection, and prepares them for professional lives of continuous learning.

To be awarded an M.D. degree from CMU, the eligible student must satisfactorily complete the medical sciences portion of the curriculum, as well as 72 weeks of clinical rotations. Students, who wish to practice medicine in the U.S., must also pass the USMLE Step 1 and 2 and all core examinations before receiving the MD degree. Students must fulfill all financial obligations to the University, including an \$780 graduation fee, and comply with the CMU Student Honor Code.

Students are embarking on a career in a profession, which requires high standards of ethical conduct and honesty of its members. It is expected that each student will make a personal commitment to abide by the Honor Code professing a standard of behavior that will form a firm basis for future professional conduct, and demonstrate respect for the academic environment. This emphasizes the avoidance of any form of intellectual dishonesty, and requires students to demonstrate respect for the rights and well being of others, including all students, faculty, staff, patients and members of the community at all times.

## Premedical Science Courses

The Premedical Program is designed to provide students with the strong foundation needed to handle the rigorous course of study they will experience in the MD Program. Premed consists of 3 semesters (16 weeks each) and has been designed for high school graduates with less than 90 college credits, or college students who seek admission to a medical school and do not meet the minimum MD Program requirements.

This three-semester program can be entered at each semester depending upon academic qualifications. It offers undergraduate sciences and laboratories, as well as post high school levels of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Composition and Calculus. These courses contribute to the overall goals of a pre-professional education, and much of the final semester of the premedical program is taught by the MD program faculty members.

### **PROMOTION INTO THE MEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM**

Students must achieve a 'B' average to maintain satisfactory academic progress. To be eligible for promotion into the medical sciences, a student must successfully complete all three semesters with at least 2.8 GPA and pass the Premedical Science Post Examination (PSPE).

## Basic Science Courses

The first six semesters of the MD program involve concentrated study of Basic Medical Sciences. Anatomy, Histology and Molecular/Cell Biology are the main focus for the first semester. The following semesters explore a logical sequence of science coursework, including advanced courses in Molecular/Cell Biology, Physiology, Pathology and Behavioral Sciences.

**See website for more information: <https://cmumed.org/academics-overview/programs/medical-program/curriculum/>**

After completing the Basic Science program, students are required to take the USMLE Step 1. Upon successfully passing the exam, students proceed to the Clinical Science program, in which clinical rotations are offered at teaching hospitals and clinical centers.

## Clinical Sciences Curriculum (72 weeks)

The Clinical Sciences Program is comprised of seventy two weeks of clerkships, and will take approximately six semesters to complete. Students are required to register and pass the USMLE Step 1 prior to being assigned to a clinical rotation. Clinical clerkship subjects are:

### Core Clerkships (48 weeks)

- > Internal Medicine 12 weeks
- > Surgery 12 weeks
- > Family Practice 6 weeks
- > Pediatrics 6 weeks
- > Obstetrics & Gynecology 6 weeks
- > Psychiatry 6 weeks

### Elective Clerkships (24 weeks)

- |                                |                       |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| > Allergy & Immunology         | > Geriatrics          | > Plastic Surgery                 |
| > Ambulatory Care              | > Gerontology         | > Preventive Medicine             |
| > Anesthesiology               | > Hematology          | > Psychiatry                      |
| > Cardiology                   | > Infectious Diseases | > Public Care/Health Care Systems |
| > Critical Care                | > Nephrology          | > Pulmonary Disease               |
| > Cytology                     | > Neurology           | > Radiology                       |
| > Dermatology                  | > Neuropathology      | > Rheumatology                    |
| > Emergency Medicine           | > Oncology            | > Trauma Surgery                  |
| > Endocrinology and Metabolism | > Ophthalmology       | > Urology                         |
| > Family Practice              | > Orthopedic Surgery  |                                   |
| > Gastroenterology             | > Pathology           |                                   |

After completing core clerkship rotations students are eligible to take both sections of USMLE Step 2 consisting of Clinical Skills in one section and Clinical Knowledge in the other. Upon successfully passing the exam, students may proceed to a residency program. Most students take Step 2 during their last year to become ECFMG certified, and then apply for a residency.

## Upon Acceptance

On behalf of Caribbean Medical University, congratulations on your acceptance to the school and welcome to the CMU community.

We are happy to see you start your career towards transforming your ambition into success within your field of study. Whether you are accepted into the Premedical or the Medical Science Program, the first few days after acceptance may be very exciting, but also confusing. This Orientation Guide has been created to assist you with preparation for your trip to Curacao and answer any questions you may have before your first day of classes.

Administrators, faculty, staff and upperclassmen are also available to answer your questions and provide useful tips before coming to the island.

As a new student you may have questions about preparing for arrival to the island, campus life, academic programs or life on Curacao. Please feel free to explore this publication, where you can find a lot of useful information. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. Admission counselors at 1-888-877-4CMU and at Live Help, (available Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm AST) are available to assist you.

## Provisional Acceptance

Provisional acceptance may be granted by the CMU Admission Committee when specific documents or required information is pending to complete the admission application. Applicants are permitted to proceed with the admission process during the provisional acceptance period. Upon receipt of the required document(s) by the Admission Office, the provisional acceptance status will be changed to regular.

## Acknowledgement of Admission

A letter of acceptance to the desired semester is mailed to applicants after completing a zoom interview with an Admission Officer, and a positive decision from the Admission Committee.



## Immigration Documents

Once accepted to the University and at least two months before arrival to the island, students are required to submit the following documents to the Immigration Department in order to satisfy the requirements of the Curacao Immigration Authority and to obtain a Student Temporary Resident Permit:

- **Passport** - Copy of your valid passport (the page showing your photograph and signature)
- **Birth Certificate** - In case of naturalization, the naturalization certificate has to be legalized accordingly and submitted with a copy of the birth certificate)- Original document has to be apostilled if your country of birth is a member of the Hague Convention, if not, it has to be Legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Authenticated by the Dutch Embassy. (The apostille is done by the Secretary of State's office of the State of Birth in the US) Please note: Birth Certificates with an issue date of more than 1 year old are not accepted by the immigration department!;
- **Police Clearance Certificate** - Original Federal Police Clearance. This is a statement from your Federal Police Department, stating that you don't have any felonies or outstanding warrants on your name. An internet background check or from a private company will NOT be accepted. The police clearance should be less than 3 months old upon submittal at the immigration office.
- **Proof of Sufficient Funds** - A bank statement/ scholarship/ loan approval showing the student has sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses. In case of sponsorship a bank letter or statement of the sponsors account confirming available funds to cover living expenses in the amount of at least \$6600. The sponsor also has to provide a passport copy and a letter a support.
- **Complete Immigration form (4 documents)** (This is downloadable from the Official Forms section)

New students are required to present a valid round-trip airline ticket to immigration authorities upon request. Students will need to present proof of local or international medical/ health insurance coverage at the time the temporary resident permit is issued.

All documents mentioned above are also required for student family members, friends and other visitors who are planning to stay on Curacao for a longer period than their visas allow them. Once these documents have been processed by the immigration authorities, a temporary residence permit will be issued. It is essential to have all aforementioned documents submitted to the Immigration Department at least two months prior to arrival on the island. This allows staff sufficient time for processing the request on behalf of the student.

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER CURACAO IF ALL OF THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OF CURACAO PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL.**

## Tuition & Fees

Tuition fees are due prior to the beginning of each semester. Other school fees are due by the due date on the invoice. All students paying tuition and fees are entitled to use the University services and facilities such as Student Center, Laboratories, Library, Computer Rooms and Student Lounge.

Caribbean Medical University offers a variety of options to pay the school fees. If you have not cleared your balance yet, please remit your payment by one of the following methods.

### Checks, Money Orders, Bank Drafts

These payment instruments should be made payable to Caribbean Medical University. Please write your student ID or account number in the memo field to allow us to process your payment.

### Auto-debit

Hassle-free tuition payments with CMU auto-debit. Discount will be given to students, who instruct the University to automatically deduct the tuition from their checking, savings account or credit card.

Checking or Savings Discount: 5% of the balance due;

Credit Card Discount : 3% of the balance due;

### ACH

For your convenience, you pay school's fees over the phone by calling our U.S. Office or online at MYCMU Student Services.

### Credit Cards

You may also use major credit cards to remit payments of the University's tuition and fees. Payments can be made over the phone by calling our U.S. Office or online at MYCMU Student Services Website.

### Online Bill Pay, Wire Transfer

Students may remit payments directly from their checking or savings account using online bill pay or wire transfer. CMU's account information is as follows:

Recipient: CARIBBEAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Bank Name: JP MORGAN CHASE

Bank Address: 6145 N NORTHWEST HWY

City, State, Country: Des Plaines, IL, USA

Account Number: 885968503

Routing Number: 071000013

Swift Code: CHASUS33

### Student Loan Checks

Those who have been already approved for a student loan and if the amount on the student loan disbursement exceeds the amount due for tuition and/or housing, the change due to you will be issued as a Remittance Check. Checks will be issued approximately 10 calendar days after loan disbursement date. For the convenience of students, two types of refund checks may be issued:

- 1) Refund check written by the University using its U.S. bank account and mailed to your permanent address.
- 2) Refund check issued electronically and sent as a Direct Deposit. If you prefer this option, you would be required to fill out and submit the Direct Loan Disbursement Form /downloadable from our website/.

## Financial Aid

### Payment Plan

The CMU Finance Department provides tuition payment plans to qualified students, helping them manage the cost of medical education. Our payment plans are flexible, and designed to meet the needs of students' specific requirements. Tuition payment programs are renewable, short-term or long-term plans, which split the tuition fees into 4 equal installments for Pre Med and Basic Science students or 3 equal installments for Clinical students.

For more information about tuition payment plans, please contact the Finance Department.

### Scholarships

CMU only offers partial Scholarships. Applicants are considered for the Admissions Excellence Scholarship.

Applicants are considered for the Admissions Excellence Scholarship if they have a GPA of 3.8 and higher (0.0-4.0 scale). The Academic Excellence Scholarship are applicable for current students. Students who achieved a GPA of 3.7 and higher (0.0-4.0 scale). All students may receive an award up to a certain amount per semester.

### Student Loans

Caribbean Medical University offers Student Loan Programs to qualified students. The Financial Aid is awarded on the basis of "need," which is determined from information supplied on the application form and approved by University's official. We provide detailed explanation regarding the different loans CMU has to offer.

It is important that students anticipating the need for financial assistance at any time during their medical education undertake early long-term planning. The Finance Department welcomes the opportunity to help students develop these plans. In some cases, because both the personal contribution and sources of financial aid are limited, a student may be unable to enroll in medical school. Students who believe they may be unable to attend the school due to financial constraints should call the Finance Department, for information and counseling.

## Disclaimer

Students are hereby notified that CMU considers payment of tuition and fees to be a financial condition of enrollment each term. Accordingly, the fees are due by the date indicated on the School's Invoice.

Failure to remit the payment on time may cause your enrollment to be cancelled. Unpaid charges on your account may prevent you from registering for an upcoming term and lose the dormitory assignment. Defaulters may not be able to register for classes and are liable for a penalty of 10% of the outstanding balance. Official requests, like transcripts, grade reports, etc. may not be issued until all dues are cleared.

## Study Textbooks

Students may purchase study textbooks online at very competitive prices.

Furthermore, all medical equipment and school supplies such as dissection kits, lab coats, scrubs, Video CD's and more may be ordered online.

A complete list of required and recommended books is located on our website at

**<https://www.cmumed.org/academics/books.htm> or call 1-866-567-BOOK (2665)**

We strongly encourage all students to purchase their books before their arrival and have them shipped directly to the campus to avoid the hassle of carrying them with you.

Please Note: Caribbean Medical University reserves the right to change the booklist at any time. To prevent unnecessary expenditures, we suggest that students purchase their books for one semester at a time.



## Computing at CMU

All incoming students are required to have a laptop computer. It is recommended that you have a laptop with the following minimum specifications: Intel® Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.50GHz) w/15.0 XGA Display, 2GB DDR3 SDRAM, 120GB Hard Drive, Microsoft Windows 8.1®, Wireless Network Card (802.11a/b/g/n, 54Mbps), DVD/CDRW Combo Drive, 110 volt Power Adapter, updated Antivirus Program and Microsoft™ Office®.

Internet services are available to students for study and personal use on campus. There are various computers in the CMU computer lab. All are connected to the campus local area network (CMUNET) and to the 400 Mbps dedicated Internet.

Students can also access the Internet using their own computers via wireless (802.11a/b/g) connections. A voucher code can be requested from the IT Department.

## Student Email Account

All CMU students are provided with a student e-mail account. Your email address consists of the first letter of your first name, a dot and your full last name, for example:

**Bob Smith's email address would be b.smith@cmumed.org.**

Your initial password should have been sent to you by email at the time of acceptance.

You can access your emails with your favorite Email Client like MS Outlook or Outlook Express.

Below you'll find the configuration settings:

**Login Name:** your full email address

**Password:** your case-sensitive password

**Account Type:** POP3

**Incoming Mail Server:** mail.cmumed.org    **Port:** 995

**Outgoing Mail Server:** mail.cmumed.org    **Port:** 465

**Encryption Type:** SSL

**Note: Outgoing server (SMTP) requires authentication.**

Please contact our IT Department at [it@cmumed.org](mailto:it@cmumed.org) if you experience any problems using your student email account.

## Health Insurance

All students are required to have Local Health Insurance in order to collect their temporary student residence permit. The average cost of the Local Health Insurance plan is \$600 per year.

## What to Bring

With the help of current and former students, we have prepared a list of recommended items for you to bring to the island.

### School Supplies:

- Study backpack;
- Notebooks, colored pens, high lighters and pencils;
- Ear plugs – recommended for home studying and sleeping;
- Student Planner;
- Personal Calculator;
- Scrubs /also available at the CMU Bookstore and on campus/;
- Laptop computer;

### Clothing:

Light clothing for four months of campus life (summer weight shirts, shorts, jeans, bathing suits). Cleaning services are available in dorms and apartments.

- Sandals, flip-flops, sneakers;
- Light raincoat;
- Sweater/sweatshirt (air-conditioned classrooms can be cold);
- A jacket and tie for official ceremonies and conferences;

**DO NOT BRING OVERLY FORMAL CLOTHING - YOU WILL LIVE IN CASUAL SUMMER CLOTHING.**

### Optional:

- A router (including power adapter and ethernet cable) if you want to have wireless internet in your dorm room

## Shipping to Curacao

Caribbean Medical University has designed a Student Shipping Program to its students and their families for convenient and affordable shipping to the island of Curacao. The program allows you to send items like books, school supplies, personal belongings and equipment and to feel confident that your package will be handled with the utmost care.

Box up your items, follow the shipping instructions below, and send them to:

AmCar Freight Inc.

**12600 NW 25 Street Suite 107**

**Miami, FL 33182**

**Attn: Caribbean Medical University - SSP**

Your package(s) will be delivered directly to the CMU campus on Curacao and placed in the secure storage area for you to pick up.

You may contact CMU Department of Student Services at (847) 299 5575 when you ship the package to make payment arrangements or if you have any questions about the shipping process, please contact AmCar directly:

- by phone: (305) 599 8866 /ask for Louise Rodriguez/;
- by email: [traffic@amcarfreight.com](mailto:traffic@amcarfreight.com) or
- visit the website at <http://www.amcarfreight.com>.

Note: Within 1 week of receiving your shipment, required documents /if applicable/ and the payment, AmCar Freight Inc. will prepare your box(es) for shipment directly to the CMU campus. You will be charged a flat rate of \$4.50 per pound /minimum \$35/, plus an optional \$1.25\* per \$100 insurance.

## Airplane Ticket

You should book your flight to arrive at the Curacao International Airport “Hato” (CUR) located on the North side of the island, approximately three miles from the campus. You should inform the Housing Department ([dorms@cmumed.org](mailto:dorms@cmumed.org)) about your itinerary for us to arrange your pickup.

A round trip ticket costs between \$500-\$800. This may vary according to season and availability. Book your ticket in advance for better pricing. Based on our experience, the most convenient and cost effective carrier is American Airline. Please visit <http://www.aa.com> for details.



## Living on Curacao

### The Island

Curacao is an island in the southern part of the Caribbean Sea off the west coast of Venezuela. The island is the largest and most populous of the three so-called ABC islands (for Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao) and is an autonomous island part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Its capital city is Willemstad.

Curacao is renowned for its coral reefs which make it an excellent spot for scuba diving. The beaches on the south side contain many popular diving spots. An unusual feature of Curacao diving is that the sea floor drops off steeply within a few hundred feet of the shore, and the reef can easily be reached without a boat. The coastline of Curacao features many bays and inlets, many of them suitable for mooring.

When asked, repeated visitors generally say that they did not have enough time to do all they wanted to do on their first visit. If it is the third or fourth trip, the answer is basically the same but with this addition "It is the warmth and friendliness of the people" that keeps visitors returning year after year. The good news is that while this is all quite true, the island also offers a lively nightlife, fun places to visit and world class restaurants. When you first come to the island, you are a visitor, but when you leave, you are a friend.

### Location

The largest and most populous of the Netherlands Antilles, located in between Aruba and Bonaire, Curacao lies some 35 miles off the northern coast of Venezuela and 800 miles north of Equator. The island is 38 miles long and varies between 2 and 8 miles in width. Spectacular beaches line the southwest, leeward coast. Geographically, it falls within the Atlantic Standard Time Zone, which is one hour ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time and the same as Eastern Daylight Time.

### Time Zone

Atlantic Standard Time year round (equivalent to Eastern Daylight Savings Time). The difference between the European Time and Curacao Time is 5 or 6 hours (depending on Summer-time or Winter-time)

### Population

The population numbers more than 170,000, most of whom are of African or mixed African and European descent. In all, more than 50 different ethnic backgrounds are represented here, and the people are very proud of the island's international flavor.

### Language

The native language is Papiamentu, but Curacaoans are multi-lingual, having learned to speak English, Dutch, and Spanish at school from the third grade on.





## Transportation

Even though Curacao is the biggest Antillean island, many places are within walking distance from the campus and dormitories. However to make students' lives easier, Curacao offers many convenient options to commute. From public and university transportation to purchased or rented cars, mopeds or bikes, everyone will find a suitable way to move on the island.

- **Campus Shuttles** - They transport students between the main campus and student dorms and the area where many of the off-campus students live. The Shuttle Service begins in the morning at 7:30 a.m. and ends at approximately 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except for local holidays. It is not available on Saturdays and Sundays.
- **Public Transportation** - The public transport network of buses covers the whole island. Busses run scheduled routes, usually on the hour. The bus fare for the 'Konvooi' busses is Naf11/\$0.55 for rides within the city and to locations Eastwards and Naf11,50/\$0.82 for rides Westwards.
- **Car Rental** - There are two car rental agencies on the campus. Expect to pay between \$20-50 per day or \$400-600 per month. Available vehicles include standard cars with both manual and automatic transmissions, jeep-like four-wheel-drive vehicles and mini mokes, which are open jitney-like vehicles. Many students get together in a group and rent a vehicle for the term of study. U.S., Canadian and International Driver's License allows to operate a motor vehicles on the island.
- **Taxi Cabs** - Some students living on Curacao opt to use taxi service from time to time as a supplement to either public transportation or car rental during their stay. \$10 is enough to get you to most places although \$20 is the standard charge to or from the airport. Some taxi drivers will give island tours in addition to taking passengers between destinations.

## Money & Banking

The US dollar is accepted everywhere on the island, as are Travelers Checks and major Credit Cards. Debit Cards are accepted at large shops and supermarkets. Prices are quoted in the national currency, the Netherlands Antillean guilder (also called the florin), abbreviated NAF or ANG. It is pegged to the US dollar at a stable rate of US\$ 1 = NAF 1.77 for cash, 1.78 for traveler's checks. Bills of US\$50 and US\$100 can be hard to cash.

It is advisable to have approximately \$1000 available either in the form of cash or through an ATM card to support you during the first few weeks.

US and Canadian Banking Cards are accepted to withdraw money at numerous ATM machines on the island, therefore there is no need to open up a local checking or savings account. Most banks will charge a \$1-\$3 fee for each ATM cash withdrawal. You may ask your bank to lower, or even wave, the fee for you as a student studying abroad. For students' convenience, there is an ATM machine on the campus.

There are several banks on the island. Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) with on-campus branch, Royal Bank of Trinidad & Tobago (RBTT), Banco di Caribe, Girobank are the most popular. It is suggested that you open a "non-resident" U.S. dollar or Antillean guilder checking account. To open a checking account, a letter of reference from your current bank along with your passport, and a minimum balance of \$25-\$500 are required.

ATM machines are widely available on the island for both checking and savings accounts. Another option is to leave your money in your U.S. bank and use ATM machines to withdraw cash.

If you choose to deposit a U.S. check into a local bank, it will take up to 30 days to clear (even a cashier's check or student loan check). Local checks may take 5-7 days to clear at a local bank.

Wire transfers to Curacao banks generally take 1-3 days.

## Electricity

Curacao has the same voltage standard as in North America (100 volts, 60 cycle) which is compatible with U.S. computers and small appliances. European appliances (that use 220 volts) generally cannot be used on Curacao (unless you have a transformer).

The campus operates four generators that provide electricity for the school facilities, therefore is not vulnerable to power outages, that occur from time to time on the island.

## Mailing

Clearly mark "AIR MAIL" on all letters and packages. Note Service receives mail from various carriers such as UPS, DHL, and FEDEX. Students are notified of incoming mail for pick up. Items should be sent to the following address:

**Student Name**

**Caribbean Medical University**

**Pater Euwensweg 25, Willemstad, Curacao**

### Internet Connection

CMU Dormitories and campus facilities feature free wireless and wired High Speed Internet connection available to all students. Those who live off campus may purchase wireless internet dongles or connection plans and modems through the two Internet Service Providers, UTS and FLOW.

Curacao also offers many Internet cafes where you can check your mail, surf the net and stay in touch with your family and friends. Some of these cafes also offer other facilities like copying, faxing, scanning, burning, downloading, laminating, filming, processing and making international calls.

### Phone Service

Curacao's international code is 5999; there are no internal area codes. A callback service decreases the cost of international calling (calls to the U.S.) to about \$0.20 - 0.24/min.

### Safety & Health

Curacao has always been considered one of the safest destinations in the Caribbean, however incidents may occur. Please do not provide temptation by leaving your valuables unattended on the beach or in your car.

Take sensible precautions against the tropical sun, especially between 10 AM and 3 PM. Sun screen, sunglasses and a hat are recommended, as well as a light beach cover-up.

Curacao has no malaria or similar tropical diseases, and no vaccinations are needed to visit. Due to the high level of overall hygiene and cleanliness, gastrointestinal complaints ("travelers' tummy") are very uncommon. Eat and drink freely. For minor ailments, standard US and European over-the-counter medicines are available at the local pharmacies, called "Botica's".

There are a number of medical of medical centers on the island. The Curacao Medical Center (CMC) is the most modern and well equipped in the region. In can be reached within 20 minutes from almost anywhere on the island.

## Campus Dormitory

Our University is proud to be among only few medical schools in the Caribbean offering student dorms. Majority of the students live for their first semesters in one of our two residence halls, Clarion Residences and Andress Bello Complex.

The Andress Bello Residence are located within 30 minutes walking distance from the main campus, furthermore there is free school's bus shuttle, students may use every day to get from and to the campus. All apartments are fully furnished one and two bed units featuring a study desk, chairs, refrigerator, stove, microwave. Both dormitories include a small kitchen, dining/living areas, and are fully air-conditioned. There is a bathroom for each unit, High Speed Wired Internet connection and Direct TV.

**Dormitory units are not supplied with bedding, bath items, cookware, etc. Therefore, we recommend that particular items are brought to the island or purchased upon arrival.**





## Student Services

At Caribbean Medical University, students' needs are our top priority. To this aim, CMU offers a variety of services to make the transition into medical school as smooth as possible and to provide an enriching experience, in addition to delivering unparalleled education.

### Advisement/Tutorial

All CMU professors are available for individual student consultation during posted office hours. CMU's Student Government Association (SGA) operates and funds a tutorial service for students who need additional after hours assistance with various courses throughout the Premedical and Basic Sciences curricula.

### Orientation Advisors

Each first semester student is assigned an Orientation Advisor (OA), a current student, who shares insight about living on Curacao, useful study techniques, what to expect during the first semester, and answers other questions that might arise. Your OA will contact you via e-mail. If you do not hear from your OA after you have matriculated, please contact the Registrar's Office via e-mail at [registrar@cmumed.org](mailto:registrar@cmumed.org).

### Housing Advisors

There is one Resident Advisor (RA) available who is usually a third or fourth semester student. The RA assists students with settling into the dorms as well as providing information and advisement about residential and school-related concerns. Additionally, the RA provides information to students about services and facilities available in the local community and assists students who wish to change roommates or switch rooms.

### Student Counseling

A wellness counselor is available to serve students and members of their families. Recipients may utilize this confidential service for any problem or concern, whether related to studying, emotional difficulties, complications of physical illness, or difficulties with spouse, parents, or friends. Appointments are necessary for counseling sessions.

### Community Services

Students are encouraged to participate in volunteer activities, sporting events, and other exciting projects. Students have the opportunity to join events focusing on general health care (mobile clinics) and promote health awareness.

## Withdrawal

Students who wish to withdraw from the University are required to fill out an official Withdrawal Form according to our withdrawal policies listed on our website <http://www.cmumed.org/financialaid/tuition.htm> and have it approved by the Dean, the Finance department and the CEO. Students should obtain a Withdrawal Form from the Registrar's Office or download it from the University's website. The form must be completed by the student and sent to the Dean who will ensure that the original is placed in the student's file and a copy provided to the Director of Administration for processing of any refund due.

## Disclaimer

The purpose of this Orientation Guide with its attachments is to help you with your transition to medical school and the island of Curacao. We are not responsible for the services provided by any of the companies/outside vendors listed. Note also that the rates are subject to change. For exact regulations regarding immigration, duties, baggage limitations, etc., check with the appropriate carrier or agency. CMU provides the names of vendors for your convenience and at their request. This information does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by CMU of their goods or services.

The educational process necessitates change. The information provided in this booklet and supporting documents must be considered as informational and not contractually binding on the University. Each step of the educational process, from admission through graduation, requires continuing review and appropriate approval by University officials. The University, therefore, reserves the right to change any provisions, tuition and fees, curriculum requirements and regulations anytime during the student's tenure.

### **Caribbean Medical University**

Pater Euensweg 25, Willemstad, Curacao

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## Campus Directory

Name	Title	Phone	Email
<b>Campus</b>	Curacao	+1 888 877-4268 x5	curacao@cmumed.org
<b>Academic</b> Dr. Marek Malecki, MD Dr. Marek Malecki, MD	Dean of the School of Medicine Dean of Students	+5999 520-6369 +5999 520-6369	dean@cmumed.org dos@cmumed.org
Dr. Marek Malecki, MD	Dean of Academics	+5999 520-6369	academics@cmumed.org
<b>Administration</b> Radek Lewkowski Keelah Dindial Cristien Martes  Keelah Dindial  Savita Martina Sulaima Gomes Salomé Benshop	Chief Executive Officer Admissions Department Clinical Department  Immigration Department  Student Services Finance Department Accounting Department	+1 224 400-9400 +1 888 877-4268 x1 +1 888 877-4268 x3  +1 888 877-4268 x5  +1 888 877-4268 x5 +1 888 877-4268 x2 +1 888 877-4268 x5	ceo@cmumed.org admissions@cmumed.org rotations@cmumed.org  immigration@cmumed.org  info@cmumed.org students@cmumed.org accounting@cmumed.org
<b>Student Housing</b> Savita Martina Henry Medina	Dorms & Residence Driver & Dorms Maintenance	+1 888 877-4268 x5 +5999 510-8795	dorms@cmumed.org
<b>Registrar Office</b> Bhavna Lulla	Registrar	+1 888 877-4268 x2	registrar@cmumed.org
<b>IT Department</b> Kaelan Barbolina	IT Department	+1 888 877-4268 x2	it@cmumed.org

**WELCOME TO CARIBBEAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY  
AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR STUDY!**

## Checklist

Now since you went through our Orientation Guide, you should be familiarized with the most important items you should be aware of before your first day of classes. The following checklist of required steps should be completed for you to be ready for the school.

The Admission Officer has checked off the items that have been finalized prior to sending this booklet. You should make necessary arrangements for the remaining items and have marked those that are fully completed. Once it's done you are fully prepared for the study.

- ☐ **Admission Submittals** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Immigration Documents** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Tuition Payment** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Study Textbooks** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Airline Ticket** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Dorms/Housing Arrangement** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Health Insurance** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **School Supplies** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Shipping (if necessary)** \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Wireless Router, power adapter and Ethernet cable** \_\_\_\_\_







**CMU**

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United States

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