

Please contact the IT Officer at it@insight.org.au to be put in touch with this placement participant for further information.

Placement

Paediatric Medicine, Northern Provincial Hospital, Luganville (Espirito Santo), Vanuatu

Dates of Placement

April 2017

The Application Process

Self-organised; I had to email one of the doctors at NPH which was quite a drawn out process (mainly because Dr Wilma had limited internet and phone access) but once I had a confirmation letter it was quite straightforward.

There was a small placement fee (\$AUD100), which also was a bit of mission to transfer internationally.

I would advise applying early (6-8 months beforehand).

Placement Structure / Typical Day

We would wake up with fresh-baked bread and avocados from the stalls down next to the hospital, and lots of fresh fruit! We would start at 8am with rounds and then small jobs, admitting patients or attending deliveries.

There were often outpatient clinics in the afternoons and they had big vaccination days which you could help at.

Often it would quieten down in the afternoon and we were able to go to the beach or for a dive each day, or go to one of the nearby islands.

Level of Flexibility on the Placement

You were able to do as much or as little as you wanted. If you were keen there was heaps to be involved in, and there was also really interesting adult patients with diseases or conditions that were quite rare or that you wouldn't often see in Adelaide.

Expectations and Assessment

Minimal assessment, we had weekly teaching with the consultants that came across from Port Vila and had to do some presentations, as well as present new admissions when we rounded but overall it was very informal and we just had our registrar sign our forms off.

Skills Gained

- NICU/SCBU experience
- Paediatric cannulation, NG tube placement
- Simple procedures (abscesses etc.)

Placement Highlights

- Exposure to tropical medicine
- Working with some of the happiest, positive people in the world

Challenging Aspects of the Placement

- Minimal access to resources (e.g. no sterile gloves available for procedures, not enough lignocaine, only adult sized cannulas available etc.)
- I found it very challenging when Paediatric patients passed away from treatable diseases or conditions due to lack of access or resources. Gives you a great appreciation of the Australian medical system.

Other Activities

- Scuba diving, swimming, snorkeling, hiking, caving
- Climbing volcanoes
- Horse-riding

Would you recommend this placement to someone interested in global health?

Highly recommended! This placement was amazing.