

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

Placement

Uganda, Tropical Diseases, Paediatrics

Dates of Placement

09 July 2018

The Application Process

I emailed the volunteer coordinator with the form on the Maranatha Health website and they got back to me straight away with a complete package to apply. There were several forms and pre placement screening questionnaires which well prepared me for the placement. It was all easy to follow and organise.

The contact person was always reachable. We met in person once over coffee to discuss the placement and answer any questions I had.

Placement Structure / Typical Day

The clinic is small with about 20-30 inpatients and an outpatient service for walk ins, predominantly paediatric patients but some adult beds. The days began at 8am by driving to the hospital, then a ward round which also included full examination and interpretation of test results for each inpatient until about 3pm and a break with supplied lunch.

I'd then sit in on some outpatient appointments or do some teaching/reading before heading home. I could also spend time in other branches of the clinic like the HIV management clinic and other outreach projects.

Level of Flexibility on the Placement

The placement was very relaxed and I could be there as much or as little as I wanted and see lots of different areas of the clinic as well as go on many of the outreaches and external projects.

Expectations and Assessment

It was very self directed about my goals for the placement.

Skills Gained

I learnt a lot about clinical reasoning without using tests or investigations to guide the decision making, it was a really great learning experience to clinically think without the supporting evidence or waiting for the test result to confirm or deny, because often the testing was very limited.

Placement Highlights

The location, Uganda is amazing!! I got to go hiking with chimpanzees, which was incredible.

Challenging Aspects of the Placement

The lack of testing and the distances to the nearest city made it really difficult to treat some conditions and this was hard to see. There were also some clinical decisions that were very different to what I would expect in Australia but seen as routine in Uganda which was difficult to observe.

Other Activities

I travelled around to national parks and local crater lakes. The town was in a beautiful location in Uganda. I trekked with chimpanzees and then flew to Tanzania to go on safari in the Serengeti National Park.

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

YES absolutely. Keep in mind the placement will change year by year depending on the staffing (there are local staff who work there but aren't trained as doctors, so for some years now doctors have been working there from Australia or the UK for months/years at a time, so this will change the situation and placement depending who the doctor is at the time).