

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

Placement

Bethesda Hospital, South Africa - Rural hospital

Dates of Placement

08 January 2018

The Application Process

Email to Medical Director of the Hospital (kellygate@gmail.com) and clearance with HPCSA (equivalent to AHPRA).

Placement Structure / Typical Day

Highly variable depending on your preferences. I spent most time in ED and general outpatients but this would be a fantastic placement for obstetrics, paediatrics or anyone interested in HIV or TB medicine. Opportunities to visit rural/remote clinics.

Level of Flexibility on the Placement

Extremely flexible and you are highly independent and autonomous. Parallel consulting every day and opportunity for procedures.

Expectations and Assessment

Medical director will do your assessment, very relaxed.

Skills Gained

HIV/TB medicine. Opportunity for resuscitation, suturing, LPs, c-sections, abscess drainage, procedural sedation, anaesthesia.

Placement Highlights

Neonatal resuscitation of hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy.

Challenging Aspects of the Placement

High patient TB and HIV burden in patients so risks of needlestick/contracting TB. Medical students from nearby local university will be present so may compete for spots on ward/clinic/ED. Very rural location so far from general city life, live on hospital grounds in very basic (but liveable) accommodation.

Other Activities

Went to beautiful beaches, snorkelling, turtle hatching/laying. Opportunity to go to nearby game reserves for safari. Lots of junior doctors to hang out with, go to the pub, rotating dinners at people's houses.

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

Absolutely, great opportunity to learn about diseases common in a developing country/tropical medicine within a health system that, while underresourced is not dissimilar to Australia.