

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

Placement

Cho Ray Hospital, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Tropical Disease and Endocrinology.

Dates of Placement

12 March 2018

The Application Process

Emailed hospital training staff who sent an application form which was pretty straight forward with some basic personal details, a letter of recommendation from the uni and a passport sized photo. Also was sent a form to nominate preferred rotations and a brief introduction to the hospital as well as recommendations for accommodation and transport.

Placement Structure / Typical Day

Tropical disease: Attend ward rounds with a registrar in the morning for 1-2 hours. Some limited ability to interact with patients via the registrar (depending on their English proficiency). Lots of spot diagnosis of tropical diseases. Following ward rounds review of imaging/blood tests/self directed examination of patients. Intermittent tutorials in the afternoon with a consultant depending on whether other international students (who's placement is part of their curriculum) are present. Generally out before midday to explore!

Endocrinology: Attend ward round with registrar for 1-2 hours followed by review of investigations/limited teaching depending on registrar's English proficiency. Self directed examination of patients/watching crazy procedures (e.g. bedside amputations, bedside thyroid FNA. Generally out by 11am to explore!

Level of Flexibility on the Placement

Both units were very flexible and didn't really mind where we were at any given time. We were basically given freedom to do our own thing.

Expectations and Assessment

The hospital wanted a placement assessment from a supervisor for their own records. On tropical disease we needed to do an oral presentation based on a case on the ward.

Skills Gained

- Exposure to crazy advanced disease (Diabetes the likes of which you've never seen before, pheochromocytoma, Conn's, you name it)
- Exposure to weird and wonderful tropical disease.

Placement Highlights

The food and exploring Ho Chi Minh city was awesome. From a hospital perspective, seeing stuff we would never see in Australia like cutaneous TB, bedside toe amputations etc.

Challenging Aspects of the Placement

The English skills of the doctors were extremely variable, they were better on tropical disease but often communication was difficult.

Other Activities

- In hospital: attended a conference on new management of type 2 diabetes by a visiting consultant from Canada.
- Out of hospital: dinner with the consultant (so good), river cruise, so much street food, doggos everywhere.

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

Yes: good exposure to delivery of health care in developing country to people from low socioeconomic backgrounds, often with poor access to healthcare.