

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

Placement

ENT at Cologne University Clinic

Dates of Placement

08 October 2018

The Application Process

Emailing the university directly and applying online. It wasn't competitive, I just needed to send through the required documents.

Placement Structure / Typical Day

I was very busy, much busier than I had been during my 6th year placements in Adelaide. There was a brief ward round at 7:30 followed by a discussion of overnight admissions and pathology results at the morning meeting. Then the doctors all split into their allocated area for the day. I could then choose what I wanted to do. There were 3-4 doctors in the clinic, 5 or so in theatre and then one on each of the two wards, so plenty of choice. When I was there, I was the only student which meant that I was very involved. I was given the student pager to hold and they would page me at least a few times a day with jobs such as putting cannulas in or assisting in theatre. I was often able to leave around 3pm as most of the doctors finished on-time at 4pm.

Level of Flexibility on the Placement

It was a very flexible placement as I was able to decide what I wanted to do for the day. I also had a lot of independence.

Expectations and Assessment

I was expected to carry a pager and be able to confidently put cannulas in and take bloods. I was also expected to stay usually and 3/4pm.

Skills Gained

A lot of German! I was also able to carry out the ENT examinations in the clinic and do some neck ultrasounds.

Placement Highlights

The amount of practical tasks that I was able to carry out.

Challenging Aspects of the Placement

The language, especially when trying to communicate with the patients as to why my cannula hadn't gone in.

Other Activities

Weekend travel around Germany and international student parties.

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

It was probably more a surgical rotation where you learn practical and clinical skills rather than being global health related.