

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

## Placement

National Hospital of Sri Lanka - Colombo, General Surgery

## Dates of Placement

09 January 2018

## The Application Process

Online application form. No application fee. I'd try and apply at least 3-4 months before your rotation to ensure you get the rotation/s you want. They're happy for you to do 2 or so specialties while you're there. Takes about 1 month to get a student visa.

## Placement Structure / Typical Day

Every day we started 8:30/9 and finished 12:30/1. Monday, Thursday and Friday are theatre days and they are happy for you to stay as long or little as you like. Tuesday is clinic. Wednesday is teaching ward round

## Level of Flexibility on the Placement

Heaps of flexibility. The supervising consultant is happy for you to take days off to travel around. He was also able to organise a week of paediatrics surgery for us to go on while we were there.

## Expectations and Assessment

None in addition to Adelaide Uni requirements.

## Skills Gained

They are very happy for you to scrub into surgeries and assist and do a lot of suturing. Clinic is an amazing opportunity for learning - you see so much advanced pathologies and the patients are so welcoming and happy to have you examine them. The teaching on this rotation was some of the best I've ever experienced.

## Placement Highlights

Clinic for sure. The doctors are so willing to teach and answer questions. The patients are so willing to let you learn from them. Also there were heaps of international medical students in the hospital which was really fun.

## Challenging Aspects of the Placement

Seeing patients with quite advanced pathologies in clinic can be confronting at times. The tertiary health care system in the hospital is excellent though, so often you saw people from clinic post surgery and doing well. Also most patients don't speak English so communication is restricted, but the doctors are always happy to translate.

## Other Activities

We took every Friday off and would travel on the weekends. I would recommend planning your weekends early as public transport is not always easy to navigate and can be crazy slow. We also would do the touristy activities in Colombo in the afternoons, hang out with the other international students or do yoga in the evenings.

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

Yes and no. The hospital itself is pretty modern and the care of patients excellent. However, there's a lot of poverty in rural Sri Lanka and questionable health care which you are exposed to through clinic and ward rounds.