

Elective Program at National University Hospital

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I have been to National University Hospital (NUH) and studied for 4 weeks as an exchange student. There were many things which I have never seen and something new for me.

NUH is so big that has more than 1000 beds, and it is in Kent Ridge. It takes 15 minutes by car from the center of Singapore. NUH has a lot of history but also has new buildings, because NUH is renovated now. There is a clinical building which was built 3 years ago, so it is very clean and comfortable. In Singapore, people move other place by MRT, which is a kind of subway, and clinical building of NUH is connected with MRT station. So, it's very easy for people who have a difficulty to walk to go to hospital. NUH also has many cafeterias, supermarkets, clothing stores, and a barber, so it's very convenient. After renovated again and again, however, it is like a maze for us, who isn't familiar with NUH.



Under the plate of University



The first day of our duties



NUH is connected with MRT station



Dormitory where we all stay

The first week and the second week, I studied at hematology department. In this department, I followed my supervisor and observed rounds, procedures, and clinic. Consultants who is senior doctor have their own groups and see their in-patients by groups. Consultants have their specialty, and they mainly see patients who have the disease in their clinics, such as leukemia clinic, anemia clinic, lymphoma clinic and so on. Consultants actively give lectures in morning conference or lunch break, and share their knowledge in the department. Basically conversation between medical staffs is all in English, but conversation between patient is in variable languages such as English, Chinese (Mandarin and so on), Malay, and Tamil. They adequately use these languages depends on situation. Especially they change language from English to Mandarin suddenly, so I'm really surprised to hear it. Including my supervisor, every staffs speak to me patiently though I'm not good at listening to English, it was very helpful for me. After my duty, they brought me cafeteria and treated me often. We talked about even private thing a lot.



Birthday party at lunch time



Dinner with hematology department

The third week and the fourth week, I studied at A&E department. In A&E department, I couldn't meet my supervisor because of his outside duty, so I changed a doctor who I followed depends on days. In this department, doctors see both walk-in patients and ambulated patients, and they see patients in any severity. So, I could see including chest pain, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, dizziness, and coma patient who absorbed toxic gas. Students who are third or fourth grade in National University of Singapore also came to this department. In Singapore, they are taught basic medical procedures when they are still medical students, so they can take history and physical examinations, of cause, and even they can take a blood, sample of blood culture, ABG, suture, put urinary catheter and intubation tube. At first they only can do these procedure under observation of supervisor, but now they are get used to doing them on their own, so they actually joined medical actions. We cannot agree all of these systems in aspect of safety,

but I felt a difference of medical ability between here from Japan, and I thought I want to learn more procedures as a medical student. Students of NUH are very kind and friendly, and they easily taught me something I can't understand by teacher's explanation only. So they are really reliable for me. I can get address from some of them, and now I keep in touch with them.



With a doctor and an NUH student



With other exchange students

Not only my elective program but also sightseeing is memorial one for me. One friend of my members had a friend in Singapore before we came to Singapore, so we can go out from arrival day because he brought us many places. And, each member made a friend in their own department, so someone brought us local places every day. This situation gradually removed my fear that I cannot communicate with others in English. Still now, I cannot listen to conversations between local people at all, and it is difficult for me to understand complicated contents, but I got a confidence that I could manage to inform my thinking in English. It is my precious experience.

I really want to say thank you to people in Singapore, exchange students from other countries, the member of elective students from Kobe University, a manager of my dormitory, my supervisor, and staffs who helped me to go to Singapore in Japan.



The final day
with the member of elective students
from Kobe University