

Practical semester in Melbourne, Australia



We, Malin Kirschke and Yasmin Raster, did a practical semester in Melbourne from 17/02 – 11/05/2014. We would like to share our great experiences in this review.



„Don't worry, be happy!“ – The attitude of the „Aussies“. And I, Yasmin Raster, had the chance and big luck to learn the culture. My 3 month Work Placement took place in The Royal Women's Hospital.



In this time I learnt a lot! On my first day I've got a schedule from Alison Hamilton. She is responsible for the Human Resource and Workforce. I really liked it that she asked me about my wishes and special interests. I wanted to go to the theatre because I'm very interested in the medical things and procedures. The most amazing time was when a baby was born. It was so emotional when the father began to cry because he was so happy about his little baby girl. I also enjoyed the time with the midwives and nurses at NICU and at Cancer Service. Furthermore I had the chance to go to the Finance and Quality&Safety department. Human Resources and Health Records were also very interesting. The people were always very friendly and cared about my needs and interests. It was a great time and I'm very happy that I've got the opportunity to see how an Australian hospital works.



I, Malin Kirschke, was a part of the "Hospital in the Home" (HITH) Unit in The Alfred. During the placement I spend the whole time in the same department. The aim of this department is to "discharge" the patients



earlier from hospital to their own homes in order to manage the patient flow in the hospital and to improve the patient satisfaction. That means that the patients are transferred to their homes, but they remain under the responsibility of the hospital. The treatment and care are delivered by HITH nurses at the patient's home. I had the possibility to accompany the nurses and to analyse the model. My focus was on the patient satisfaction, the outcomes of care and the cost effectiveness in comparison to the traditional hospital treatment. Furthermore I had the possibility to get in touch with other departments, which was really interesting, because there are so many differences to German hospitals.



Once a week a tutorial with Prof. Just Stoelwinder took place at Monash University. The tutorial was the place for the exchange of international students about their health care systems. We had the chance to get to know the healthcare system of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Swaziland. The chance was unique, because most of the students are doctors in their countries and they shared their personal experiences with us.





We also learnt a lot about the culture, the country and the people living in Down Under. The biggest difference is the Australian attitude. They mostly act with a „no worries“- attitude, which means that they have room for worries and problems. They are all very open-minded and positive. The Australians are interested in new things and they show their helpfulness and friendliness. Furthermore they have a beautiful country with such different landscapes. On our weekends we travelled a lot around Melbourne and also to other states. We discovered the Australian beauty of scenery in the Wilson Promontory National Park, Philipp Island and the Grampians. We also have to mention the Great Ocean Road which was very beautiful to see. We didn't miss the most popular city in Australia – Sydney. At the end of our Work Placement we had some time to travel to the East Coast in Queensland. The beautiful beaches and the sailing trip at the Whitsunday Islands are unforgettable. We never saw a “whiter” beach than the Whiteheaven Beach. It was just amazing.

Now we are back in Germany with a tan and a lot of different experiences and memories. We are lucky for getting the experience to do a practical semester in Australia. Everything was very positive and we are really impressed by the happiness of the Australians, the differences between the health care systems and the scenically diversity of Australia.

We would like to thank you, Prof. Simon and Prof. Stoelwinder, for that great opportunity! Moreover a big thank goes to Alison Hamilton and Katrina Neave, who did a really great job and offered us so many insights.

Malin Kirschke und Yasmin Raster