

Pediatric Cardiology
Royal Children's Hospital
Melbourne, Australia

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I found this position by sending emails to the educational head of each of the medical schools in Australia. The Queensland med school and the one in Adelaide both told me they accept overseas students only if their school has some sort of agreement with the home school/ Since Case didn't have that, I chose to go with RCH since it didn't have that requirement. The contact people I talked to were Antonietta Anello (antonietta.anello@rch.org.au) who is the undergraduate coordinator. You have to pay a fee of \$200 AUS and you can only come for 6 weeks max.

The med students in Australia are not involved nearly as much in the day-to-day clinical work as we are in the states. Therefore, I had to push a bit harder than usual to become involved in real clinical settings. I was set up with the director of Pediatric Cardiology at RCH, Dr. Dan Penny, who was very nice and spent time in the ped ICU, cards clinic, card wards, the ped cards or cardiac cath. I did this for the first 4 weeks then I did the remaining 2 weeks in the general peds service with the other Aussie med students. Everyone at RCH is very helpful and will let you do/change/makeup whatever you want. Very low stress!

Australia obviously is very far away so count on spending a heap of dough and serious time during your fourth year if you want to do this. I was lucky because one of my classmates was from Melbourne and I was able to stay with his family for 2 months for free. With plane flights, living expenses and vacationing here, you can spend over 5 grand easily. I ended up taking four months here with some other time in New Zealand and I still feel as if I may have missed quite a bit. Australia is as large as the US geographically and there is a lot of desert out there to cross. Getting around Melbourne is fairly easy as they have a great public transportation system. The only problem was that the trains don't go near the hospital so I spent about 2+ hours a day commuting. That said, it wasn't all that bad as you can pick up a heap of overseas culture just listening to conversations on the public train. Oh, plan your travel and your visa MONTHS in advance. This stuff only becomes more of a hassle as time goes on!