

Infectious Diseases  
Royal Melbourne Hospital  
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I initially thought I would go through a medical school in Australia called Flinders but the tie established several years ago between Flinders and Case had weakened and it seemed lime it would be a huge hassle to pursue. Dr. Kazura gave me a contact at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and they were more than willing to accommodate me. Conveniently, I was able to arrange much of the elective through e-mail so I didn't have to deal with calling them with a 16 hr. time difference.

Royal Melbourne is a major tertiary care center in Melbourne analogous to UH of Cleveland. Medical students in Australia do 6 years of med school starting after high school and tend to have significantly less hands on work than we do. As a 4<sup>th</sup> year med student I felt that I was slightly more knowledgeable than their interns who hadn't had the benefit of as much clinical experience as I had. Anyway, as a result of our different medical education systems my experience consisted of a lot more shadowing and way less autonomy than I had anticipated. This was an adjustment for me but ultimately I still learned a lot and would recommend the experience. Their medical system is similar to ours but the subtle differences were interesting. Also, I saw some more exotic infectious diseases than I might see in Cleveland like Leishmania, Malaria and Leprosy.

The elective administrators encourages taking time off during the week to sightsee and have fun and all weekends were off. I lived in a dorm attached to the hospital which was filled with other international elective students so there was always someone to hang out with. Overall, it was a great experience and I would definitely recommend it to others.