



I felt like it was a dream when I was told that I was selected by Sydney University to participate in a four week clinical placement at the Children's hospital in Westmead. When I arrived at the hospital I was so excited and extremely happy to be there.

When I arrived at the airport I was picked up by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson. They were very kind to me and very helpful. They helped me with a lot of things during my stay and we had a very fun time together. On the weekend they brought me to

Austin-mere beach and Auburn Park and we had a very nice picnic together. I was also invited to have lunch with their whole family on Easter-Sunday. They were very warm and welcoming and they always made me feel at home.

On the first day of my training, I was a little bit nervous because it was my first time training in an oversea hospital. I had to face a lot of new thing that I had never seen before. The Australian medical system is very advanced and so much better than my country. The Doctors are very kind and work very hard too. There were many good things that I learnt during my four weeks placement but the most important things that I learnt is the way in which the Medical staffs communicate with their patients. They explain their patient's illness and treatment plan very clearly and patiently to each of their patients. This is important because patients need to be educated and they need to be aware of what's happening so that they can protect themselves and be prepared. And also I still remembered about the clown doctors, they made patients smile and enjoy their stay in the hospital. They walked to each patient's room and talked in funny language to them and having a joke story. On my last day at hospital I was with some clown Doctors and I saw how they make the patients happy and laugh. I learnt that treatment is not all about the medication but the way we communicate with the patients as well. I really want my country to have this kind of Doctors.

During my training in the hospital, I was in team number two with Dr. Allen and Dr. Puusepp Bennazouz, the registrar and other residents. Doctor Puusepp Bennazouz was very kind to me and she explained to me a lot of things about medical diseases and the working process within the hospital. She also taught me how to present each patient's case and how to properly write about each patient's medical history and how to enter patient's records in the computer. This was very interesting because in my country we only have a paper based system and there is no computer network at all.

I have joint the lecture for a week and also having a group tutorial with other Sydney University students. It was very challenging and a very good experience for me. Students are very brave to give the answer and ask the questions. And through this lecture I have learnt a lot of good lesson which can help with my study.

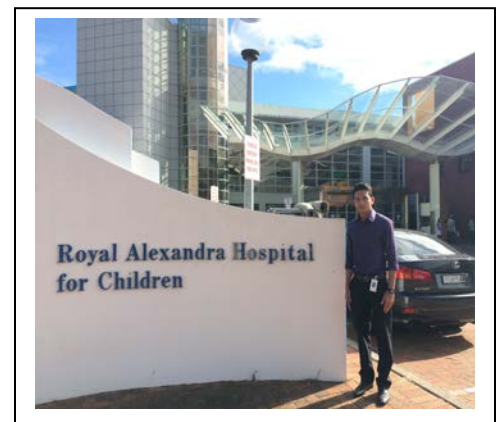
Lastly, I would like to thank Sydney University and Children's hospital Westmead for all your help and for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to study and learn new things so that I can share what I have learnt to other people. And also I will have some new idea how to make a change for my country. And I am so grateful to meet a lot of kind people who are always helping me when I did not understand about something and I also have a wonderful time to visit many beautiful tourist places. If there is another chance, I would love to go and continue my study there. Thank you so much for everything.

Vithyea

I was very fortunate to be chosen as an elective student of the University of Sydney in pursue of a clinical placement at the children hospital at West Mead. To be honest, the experience of traveling to Sydney alone was a little intimidating because not only it was my first time, I was also struggling with language, adjusting with different food, weather, transportation and overall, a different lifestyle.

The first day of my arrival, I was greeted and had such a warm welcome by Mr. Brian Jackson at the airport. They drove me around Sydney and took me to a nice lunch with his wife Mrs. Cathy Jackson at their house. Later, Mr. Jackson took me to the student accommodation at the children hospital at West Mead. Later at night, I got to meet other students in my accommodation; they were very friendly and helpful.

The next day I was excited to see Vikki who organizes the clinical placement at the hospital. I would like to thank her for giving me a quick orientation at the hospital. The following day, I was nominated to do a presentation at the University of Sydney and I decided to present about national pediatric hospital which is the only public children hospital in Cambodia. However, it did not turn out so well because I was nervous and did not have much time to prepare for it. Plus, it was my first time to do a presentation in English. But the end of the day, I got the encouragement from my colleagues and it made me feel better to accomplish something out of my comfort zone.

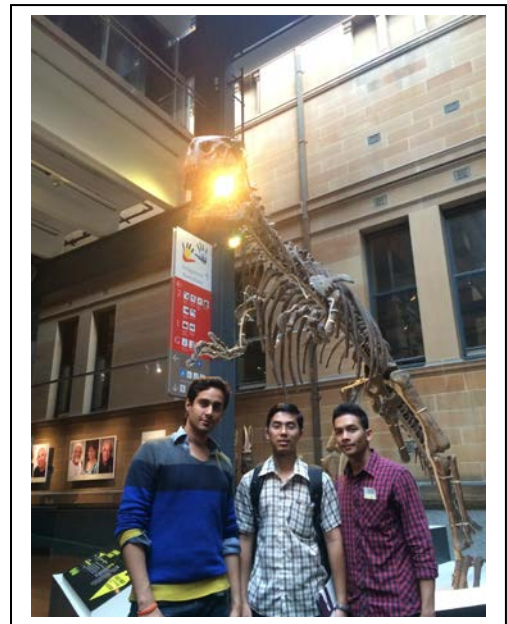


On April 12th to May 9th, my clinical placement program was held at the Children hospital at West Mead or called Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. The course divided into two main sessions. On the first week I had to attend the lecture class with a lot of good experience professors. For the last three weeks, I was involved in the general medicine department. It was very interesting to visit the children along with the doctors. Every morning, there was a meeting about patient reports, and we would do a round visit for selected patients of each ward at the hospital. I found out that the most common diseases for children were bronchiolitis, asthma and gastro-enteritis. Moreover, the moment that got me excited was when I visited the patient and reviewed their medical history and examined the patients by myself. I learned from observing from the doctors of how they treat their patients and how difference of it between a developed country and my country. I noticed how the doctors

oversea worked very hard and spent a lot of time to get to know their patients and their students. At this time, I would like to thank all my supervisor Dr. Alivin Tan, Dr. Stuarde and Dr. John Steadson for your kindness in guidance, advisory and allow me get my hands on patients and physical exam them.

The unforgettable things about Australia were that people were very friendly, helpful and very kind to me. Even though, I was being far away from family but people over there made me feel like family. I enjoyed every moment that we spent together. I missed them all.

Despite of the study, I had the weekend to myself to do some sight-seeing and explore the beautiful city, Sydney. I got to visit a lot of amazing places such as Auburn Botanic garden with Mr. and Mrs. Jackson. The following weekend, I got to spend time with other elective students from other countries. We went to the Opera house, Darling Harbour Bridge, Aquarium, Sydney tower, Sydney wildlife, Australian Museum and the Blue Mountain.... It was so much fun to see those popular places in that city.



Overall, I was very happy that I got selected to travel to Sydney. I have learned new things from the hospital it was a good experience to be able to working and living in a developed country. With this involvement, I can increase more knowledge in a medical field and I can use it in the future to students in Cambodia. In addition, it was also a good opportunity to practice English in a native speaking country.

At last, I would like to express a special thanks to the Office for Global Health Team at the Sydney University that gave me this scholarship, Mrs. Fiona Thien and Mr. Jason Dibs for arranging my traveling. Also, the Education Support Officer of University of Sydney at the Children Hospital at West Mead; Mrs. Vikki Cheetham for arranging my clinical program and for helping me during my study and staying. I am very honor and appreciate everything. Thank you for your kindness.