

Senior Elective in Anaesthetics and Perioperative Care

Concord General Repatriation Hospital, Sydney, Australia (2023)

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During my Senior Elective at Concord General Repatriation Hospital in Sydney, Australia, I had the privilege of working in the Anaesthetic and Perioperative department in partnership with the University of Sydney Medical School.



My time was divided between eleven operating theatres of various specialities, including a specialist Burns theatre and a Hybrid Vascular theatre. Partnered with an excellent team, I received high-quality one-to-one teaching on the pre-, peri- and post-operative management relevant to each case.

I embraced ample opportunities to practise and critique technical skills, such as LMA, face mask ventilation, and IV access, in a controlled simulation and operative environment under close supervision.

As my elective progressed, I received instruction and guidance in anaesthetic assessment, drug preparation, completion of anaesthetic charts, and intubation using video laryngoscopy in real-life patients. I became fully immersed in the department, never just an observer, assisting with airway management or leading the communication aspect of induction between ourselves and the patient. Thanks to my colleagues' fantastic teaching and continual encouragement, I developed the confidence to perform tasks I had never anticipated. The support, experience, and insight I received were overwhelming, and the staff were all highly encouraging and generous with their time, genuinely pleased that I was interested in their speciality.



In addition to the excellent one-on-one teaching, I had the opportunity to participate in group tutorials with final-year students from the University of Sydney and weekly Board Rounds hosted by different departments (with a free lunch included)!

During my free time, I had a great experience hiking and exploring the culture at Blue Mountains National Park, as well as relaxing at the beaches in Bondi and Bronte. My time in Sydney was truly enjoyable, and I hope to have the opportunity to visit again in the future. This elective program provides high-quality teaching, clinical exposure, and a flexible timetable, making it an excellent option for those interested in exploring healthcare systems in another country.



Through expanding my knowledge and skills related to anaesthesia, I have gained a deeper understanding of anaesthetists' crucial role in a patient's journey from admission to recovery. I am now more confident and proficient in assessing and managing patients in the perioperative setting, and plan to improve these skills further as I begin my journey as a Foundation Doctor. I feel very fortunate to have been granted a bursary from the West of Scotland Anaesthetic Teaching (WOSAT) Charitable Trust. I hope this continues to help future students in acquiring an accessible and rewarding experience.