

Kate Fenna

Chemical Pathology in Cape Town, South Africa

Summary

For my elective I wanted to see healthcare in a completely new social-economic setting and push myself out of my comfort zone. I therefore decided to spend 4 weeks at the Chemical Pathology Department of Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa. During this time I shadowed registrars, consultants and laboratory staff. The team were so welcoming and friendly and arranged a full time table for my time there. During which, I attended many ward rounds and clinics in different disciplines, and spent time at the home of the first ever heart transplant, Groote Schuur Hospital, and the Red Cross Children's Hospital. I also completed a clinical audit for the department, which they hope to publish, and as a result the Head of Department has offered to sponsor me to attend and present at an international conference next year. I had the most incredible experience, saw sights I will never forget and made friends for life. The elective is an amazing opportunity for you to grow professionally and personally, to experience once in a life time challenges, and make professional and personal connections. As a result of my elective I have a network of South African colleagues, I will soon be an affiliated member of the South African Chemical Pathology Society and will be sponsored to present at an international conference. All because I made the decision to go for it! I also managed to tick off a few bucket list items; like a real African Safari and climbing Table Mountain.