

AMA NT Elective Grant 2019 Student Report

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Being born and raised in the Northern Territory, I jumped at the opportunity to study medicine with Flinders University in the Northern Territory Medical Program. As a student in the course, I was granted the opportunity to gain rural and remote clinical experience through learning opportunities in Darwin and Katherine, before moving to Alice Springs to begin my 3rd year clinical placements in the hospital.

Throughout 2018 I rotated between the Surgical, Medical, Psychiatric, Paediatric and Emergency Departments within the hospital, and spent one morning per week at Central Australian Aboriginal Congress' Larapinta Clinic. These placements in Alice Springs exposed me to unique learning environments that have helped to build and broaden my clinical knowledge and skills. I was privileged with fantastic supervisors and mentors, and along with fellow students from Darwin and Adelaide, we formed a great team and had a thoroughly enjoyable time.



In fact, I enjoyed my time in 2018 so much that I elected to stay on in Alice Springs for a further 3 months in my final year of studies. Upon graduating, I intend to return to Alice as an Intern and I am confident that these experiences will enable me to meaningfully contribute to bettering the health of all Northern Territorians.

Some highlights from my time in Alice Springs include:

- Being a part of the Alice Springs community once again. As I completed my high schooling in Alice Springs, it was great spending time with old friends, playing local sport, and enjoying the Central Australian outback on my doorstep.



- Spending 5 weeks on placement at Tennant Creek Hospital, rotating between the Emergency Department, medical wards, and general practice. Living and working with the other medical students was a lot of fun, and the greater responsibility within the hospital that came with being in such a remote area provided invaluable clinical experience for all of us.
- Participating in a specialist outreach clinic to the remote Indigenous community Ali Curung with the ASH Renal Team. The clinic gave a powerful insight into the challenges faced by the community in receiving specialist advice, as well as those faced by the staff in providing this service.
- Attending the annual careers exhibition, where we were able to engage with schools and students from across Central Australia and encourage them to consider a career in medicine and studying with the NTMP.
- Attending an NT General Practice Education Workshop and gaining an insight into what GP training within the NT would look like.

I would strongly encourage other medical students to consider spending time in Alice Springs during their clinical training. Not only does it provide students with the opportunity to truly appreciate a different, often-overlooked part of Australia, but it equips us as future medical practitioners with a meaningful understanding of the challenges that remote health professionals face on a day to day basis.



I would also like to thank The Australian Medical Association NT for their continued support of the Northern Territory Medical Program and its students. Grants like this contribute greatly towards the costs incurred when undertaking rural placements. I encourage all medical students to apply in 2020.