

Student : Mr. Country: Australia

Japanese Fluency: Native Proficient Intermediate Elementary None  
Attachment from 09/1/07 to 04/2/07 Department Cardiology

**(1) What did you enjoy most during your elective?**

Interacting with the staff and students, and being able to observe and take part in day-to-day activities of the department. The Dept. of Cardiology has sought to involve me in, as much as possible, their daily “life” – ward rounds, tutorials, meetings, guest lectures, but at the same time, I also have the freedom to do things such as go to outpatient clinics, watch interventional & diagnostic procedures. I have felt very welcome during my stay.

**(2) Were there any difficulties/problems/surprises during your elective? (e.g. ethical dilemma)**

Not really. Language and communication were always going to be a bit of a challenge, but in the end, it was less of a hurdle than what I had been expecting. The first week was a bit of a “culture shock” – some things were quite surprising, and I did seem a little lost, but things returned to normal very quickly.

**(3) Please circle the appropriate score for the following items:**

Hospitality	<u>Excellent</u>	Satisfactory	unsatisfactory
Accommodation	<u>Excellent</u>	Satisfactory	unsatisfactory
Educational supervision	Too much	<u>Sufficient</u>	Too little
Academic work load	Too much	<u>Sufficient</u>	Too little
Time spent on wards/clinics	Too much	<u>Sufficient</u>	Too little
Assessment	Too tough	<u>Appropriate</u>	Too easy

**(4) Did you achieve the aims of your elective?**

One of my main objectives was to use this elective as an opportunity to observe how medicine is taught and practiced in different countries. I feel that I have achieved this aim, and now have a clearer appreciation of the similarities and differences between clinical and educational medicine in Australia and Japan. Additionally, I have also used my time here as an opportunity to refresh my cardiology, in preparation for final year!

**(5) What can be changed to improve our elective programme?**

1. Cultural orientation

There are many cultural differences between western countries and Japan. For future students, especially those who have not studied Japanese before, or who are first time visitors to Japan, I think that a cultural orientation session would assist students to integrate to the environment. For example, orientation might include tips on when to bow, how to greet Drs / patients, what to say to patients after seeing them etc.

2. Mentoring / Liaison Meetings

Perhaps once a week, for 10 – 20 minutes, a member of staff could meet the elective student for mentoring – e.g. if the student has any questions, concerns, problems, or even if just for some conversation over a cup of coffee.

**(6) Please feel free to add any further comments in the space provided below.**

I really appreciate the hospitality shown towards me by the Dept. of Cardiology. It really means a lot, especially

when you' re in a foreign country and don' t know anyone. So, thank you for making me feel welcome at Jikei!

Accommodation was fantastic. I was expecting college dormitories or house, but to have your own self-contained apartment is really very indulgent.

To any overseas students who may be reading this, and one wondering whether it' s worth taking the plunge and doing an elective in Japan, my advice is simple... go for it! I know some of you will have rejections about language difficulties, but the simple fact of the matter is, that Medicine is a global language within itself - a pansystolic murmur sounds the same no matter what country you live in.