



Medical Student Volunteer “Job Description”

Medical students who rotate through AHC have strictly observer status. Furthermore, the rotation will likely be less supervised than most of your home-institution rotations. Accordingly, the rotations are quite flexible and you need to be proactive in making the most of your rotation. **If you think you will require constant supervision or be unable to be proactive, this site will probably not be a good fit for you.**

The bulk of a medical student’s time is usually spent rotating through each of the 3 main departments: OPD, IPD, and ICU/ER. You can choose how much or how little time to spend in each, as long as the Chiefs of each department don’t mind. In OPD, you will sit with a Cambodian doctor and because of the high volume of patients in OPD, you will see a wide variety of problems and see the wide range of patient demographics that present to AHC. In IPD, you can follow one of the IPD doctors on their morning work rounds and may have the opportunity to practice note-writing and physical exam (PE) skills. In Cambodia, PE findings such as heart murmur, hepatomegaly, ascites, etc. are not subtle so the IPD provides a good setting to learn clinical findings. Lastly, you can spend time in the ICU & ER, observing how our sickest patients are managed.

At 2:00pm, teaching rounds begin in the ICU at which time the inpatient team rounds on all ICU & ER and selected IPD patients. Medical students are welcome to join these teaching rounds; however, we may limit the number of volunteers allowed on teaching rounds during those months when there are many volunteers at AHC.

From 4:00pm-5:00pm is the pediatric lecture series for the junior doctors. These lectures are in English and medical students are welcome to attend the lectures. There are also CME lectures every Friday at noon and free lunch is provided.

There are several ongoing studies being done at AHC and you may be asked to help out. Most commonly, medical students are asked to help with some of the ‘busy work’ such as data entry and chart review. While this may not be the most interesting type of work, you may learn more about the specific disease being studied, not to mention have an opportunity to help the hospital.

Finally, there are other activities in addition to the “typical day” activities described above which can help to spice up your rotation. Examples are spending time with the pediatric surgeons in the OT, spending time with the radiologist (Dr. Lyda), looking at interesting blood smears in the lab, and going on a Home Care visit. Mr. Sivpheng, the volunteer coordinator, can help in arranging a Home Care visit.

Please contact Dr. Varun Kumar if there are any problems during your rotation or if an evaluation needs to be filled out at the end of your rotation.