

Nursing Elective Periods at Christian Medical College Ludhiana

'My placement consisted of a rotation of different medical surgical areas ensuring I had a full experience of CMC. My time of ICU was fantastic - I really enjoyed it and it was very similar to the UK system. It was really useful to be working with just one nurse and one or two patients and I felt that I learnt a lot during my time. Despite being alone on my placement I couldn't have received more warmth and kindness from the nurses I worked with. I was welcomed by all I worked with and had the pleasure of being invited into friends' homes and met families. The barrier I felt from the language problem was reduced due to this generosity and friendliness. I really enjoyed my time at CMC learning a lot about the differences and similarities between the UK and India.'

'My elective placement has been a worthwhile experience and has allowed me to witness first hand hospital care in a developing country whilst consolidating my own knowledge and skills. Initially, it took a week or two to adjust to the different culture and try and learn basic Hindi and Punjabi phrases. Throughout my stay, I was made to feel welcome by many staff and students on ward. They were always willing to give me thorough explanations of any procedure undertaken and answered any questions I had. When I was off-duty, students and staff nurses were equally helpful and accompanied me to numerous markets to shop.'

The College of Nursing runs BSc nursing, GNM (general nursing and midwifery) as well as Masters' courses. Nurses form the backbone of the care in the hospital; they are in daily contact with patients and, when the hospital is running at around 90% bed occupancy, can feel overworked and understaffed. Many nurses at junior level trained at CMC and have not had exposure to other nursing practices both within India and overseas. Many activities undertaken by nurse practitioners in UK are performed by doctors in India. Nursing elective students and tutorial staff will be attached to the College of Nursing and under the oversight of the Principal.

Community health nursing is a vital and major component of nursing education at CMC. The needs of the population in the urban (including slum areas) and rural communities in the villages around the city are great. Many people have little or no access to health care. Students are exposed to conditions and diseases they will encounter after qualified, when working without the facilities of a large hospital. The College of Nursing takes primary health care services into the less advantaged areas, offering maternal and child health services, family welfare services and health education in schools.

You are likely to be accommodated in the Nurses' hostel (female students) where the charge is approx. £2.50 per day for accommodation and Mess charges are Rs.550 (about £7.00) per month; however some students may prefer to take their meals in the Hospital Canteen and can include some Western menu meals at Rs.130 (about £1.60) per day or Rs.100 (about £1.20) for Indian menu. Male students would be accommodated in one of the other hostels. If space is not available in the hostels, a new students' centre recently opened offers air conditioned facilities and costs Rs.1,200 (around £17) per day including breakfast.

After initial processing in this office your application will be forwarded to the Principal of the College of Nursing and you will be informed from this office if there is a place available for you. You will be expected to submit, along with your application, the objectives and guidelines for your elective to enable the College of Nursing to plan your experience accordingly.

If you are accepted by the college for your elective, you need to liaise with our office regarding your travel plans.

You will also be expected to give feedback on your learning, to be presented at a Faculty meeting, presenting and discussing case histories and perceived differences. You will also be required to write and submit a report of your elective placement to the Principal of the College of Nursing before leaving Ludhiana with a copy of this to the Friends of Ludhiana office, and you need to be aware that the Principal will send us a report on your visit from her perspective.