

Medical Students Exchange Program at Khon Kaen University (3rd April – 28th April 2023)

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Why I chose this program

【Why I decided to **study abroad**】

I've always hoped to study abroad because I wanted to broaden my horizons by learning about medical ideas outside of Japan. When I was in the 3rd grade, I had a chance to study abroad in the laboratory, but I couldn't make it come true because of COVID-19. So it was frustrating, I participated in this program even though it was busy in the 6th grade.



【Why I chose **KKU**】

Every year, many KKU students come to our university so we have many opportunities to interact with them. When I communicated with them, I was shocked that they were fluent in English and that they were in charge of patients even though they were still in the same grade. After talking with them, I thought that if I studied abroad in KKU, I would be able to improve my English skills and experience more things than in Japan. This is why I made up my mind to go KKU. And maybe one of the reason is that I really like Thai foods ;)



【Why I practiced in **general surgery**】

To be honest, I still haven't decided which department to go to in the future. However, I was more interested in surgery than internal medicine through practicing in Japan. In addition, I thought I could see a whole range of patients in general surgery.



Experience

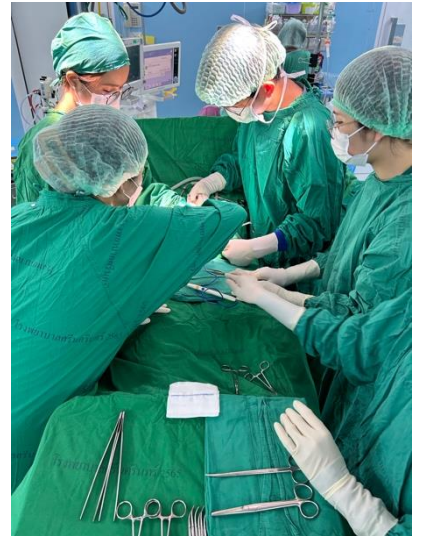
【Where I stayed】

I stayed in the medical dormitory for 4 weeks. This was located about a 12-minute walk to the hospital where we practiced, Srinagarind Hospital. I had a option of staying at hotel but I decided to stay here because it was the closest to the hospital and free cost. I stayed in one room with my close classmate and we spent 4 weeks together like family.



【How was my practice】

With that uncertainty in mind, I chose to practice in the general surgery. I think my decision was right. There are three reasons for this. First, I was able to assist in surgery more than in Japan. For example, sewing flesh together, holding laparoscope, using forceps and so on...Second, the diseases introduced to general surgery in Thailand are not so much different from in Japan, so it was easy to compare Thailand with Japan. Last, it wasn't so difficult to understand what surgeons are doing even if you're poor at English. Actually I'm not good at speaking and listening to English, but gentle surgeons gestured and explained me politely in the operation room. This may be one of the reasons why I prefer practicing in surgery to internal medicine.



【How was my life】

I'll tell you honestly about the bad and good things about studying abroad in Thailand in April. The bad thing is that April in Thailand is New Year, so many KKU students went back to their hometowns and I couldn't communicate enough. And also, the temperature in April is the highest in Thailand, sometimes it was over 40 degrees. However, there're more good things for me. For example, you can join the Thai New Year, called "Songkran". In this festival, we poured water to the elder people, monks, stones of ancestors. Furthermore, Thai food is incredibly delicious and made my life better. Especially at the night market, you can easily and cheaply get local delicious foods. The most exciting for me is that P Osan often took us to so many fun places in Khon Kaen. You'll have to wait to know what we enjoyed so much until you come to Khon Kaen !

