

What is VIS ?

The International Relations Division of the Faculty of Medicine issues VIS to send out the live messages from International Students of Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Science and School of Medicine, and to promote the exchange of intercultural information. We hope VIS helps to cultivate intercultural communications and boost international exchanges.

VISの発行の目的は、医学院・医理工学院・医学部医学科の留学生の生の声を発信することと、異文化間の情報交換を促進することです。VISが異文化間のコミュニケーションを養い、国際交流を実行していくうえで役立つことを望みます。

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS



Yosuke Fujisawa

Department of Anesthesia and
Perioperative Medicine
Period: November 18 – December 13, 2024

From Charles Sturt University, Australia

My 4 weeks stay at Hokkaido university has been an amazing experience overall. I was a part of the anaesthesia team where I was able to participate in theater, pain clinic, ICU and palliative care team where I was able to learn many valuable experiences. I also enjoyed the time speaking about the difference in Japanese and Australian medical education systems.

The team was very friendly and I was able to feel what it is like to be a Japanese medical student. I was also grateful for being able to witness many transplant operations that I would not have been able to see while I was at my hospital in Australia. It was also very interesting to learn about heart surgery and the role of Anaesthesia doctors play during these operations as well as the difficulty they face in pediatric heart operations.

My accommodation at the international house has also been great where I made many friends who took me to karaoke, ski and ice skating. It has been a wonderful experience and I wish I could have stayed longer than 4 weeks if I could! Overall, I want to thank Hokkaido University and international relations division for the experiences. Thank you!!

From University of Western Australia, Australia

During my time as an exchange student in Hokkaido University Hospital, I had always felt welcomed, and supported from start to finish. Starting with the team at the International Relations Division, they made sure that I knew where to go and checked on me at different stages of my time in the hospital. The organization was also impeccable, despite the many doctors that were involved in my schedule, everyone in the department seemed to know my itinerary, and not once did I feel like I was lost, especially in a foreign hospital system.

The department of Pediatrics was very welcoming to me and made so much effort in getting me involved with the daily activities of the team, including interacting with the pediatric patients, as well as helping with and teaching about procedures, despite the difficulties of explaining in English complex medical terminologies. I remember fondly of Professor Manabe getting me to 'test' out the English of the pediatric patients in a fun and engaging way. I will truly miss my very short time in Hokkaido University Hospital, and I hope to be able to visit again as a practicing medical professional, perhaps in a warmer season!



Alif Sajam

Department of Pediatrics
Period: January 6 – 17, 2025

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From Curtin University, Australia

I had the incredible opportunity to complete a 2 week clinical elective with Hokkaido University's Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department. I was warmly greeted by the doctors and other staff members which made me feel at ease. During my placement, I saw a variety of procedures including auriculoplasty for cup ears, rectus abdominis free flap post-parotidectomy and cleft palate surgery. I was given the opportunity to scrub in for surgeries and Dr Maeda explained each surgical procedure in detail which I really appreciated. I also joined outpatient clinics such as Cleft lip/palate, keloid scars and cancer clinics. During these clinics, I had the opportunity to perform physical examinations, learned how to use the ultrasound machine and the doctors kindly explained the patient cases in English so that I could understand. I also attended the Suturing classes where I learned surgical knot tying and a variety of suturing techniques such as simple interrupted and vertical and horizontal mattress sutures. We also learned microsurgery which was an amazing learning experience for me. By talking with the Japanese medical students and department secretaries, I learned about Japanese culture, medical school structure in Japan and got to try various foods like mochi. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my placement with the Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery Department, made many memories and gained knowledge and skills that I will carry into my future career as doctor. I'm very grateful that I had this opportunity to complete my elective at Hokkaido University!



Sadisha Kalupahanage

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Period: January 14 - January 24, 2025

From Kyungpook National University, South Korea



Song Seung Hyun

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Period: January 27 - February 14, 2025

My time at Hokkaido University was an unforgettable experience. One of the most remarkable aspects was the snowy environment, which created a beautiful and unique atmosphere throughout my stay. Despite the cold weather, the warmth and kindness of the doctors, faculty members, and staff made me feel very welcome.

During my placement, I had the opportunity to observe various surgeries. While I was not directly involved in the procedures, simply watching the surgeries allowed me to gain valuable insights into advanced surgical techniques and the efficiency of the medical team. I was impressed by the high level of expertise and teamwork displayed in the operating room.

The faculty members and doctors were incredibly kind and supportive. They patiently explained procedures and provided guidance, making my experience both educational and enjoyable. Their dedication to both patient care and medical education was truly inspiring.

Overall, my time at Hokkaido University was an incredibly rewarding and enriching experience. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and deeply appreciate the warm hospitality, support, and professionalism of everyone at the university.

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From Kyungpook National University, South Korea

During my clinical practice at Hokkaido University Hospital's orthopedic department, I gained invaluable insights into both the technical and human aspects of patient care. One of the most striking lessons was the precision and expertise required in orthopedic surgery. Observing procedures such as joint replacements and fracture fixations, I came to appreciate the meticulous planning and execution necessary to ensure optimal patient outcomes. The integration of advanced imaging techniques and minimally invasive procedures demonstrated the hospital's commitment to innovation and patient-centered care.



Ji Hoyoung

Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Period: January 27 – February 14, 2025

Beyond surgical skills, I learned the importance of attentive and compassionate patient care during ward rounds. I observed how physicians meticulously examined each patient, addressing their concerns and ensuring that their recovery was progressing as expected. The way they carefully reviewed medical histories, adjusted treatment plans, and provided reassurance left a strong impression on me. Their approach emphasized the necessity of seeing patients as individuals rather than just medical cases. This experience reinforced my understanding that being a good doctor requires not only technical expertise but also the ability to connect with patients on a personal level, fostering trust and comfort during their recovery process.

Most importantly, I was grateful for the kindness and dedication of the residents and professors who took the time to explain complex concepts to me. Their willingness to teach and engage with students made my experience at Hokkaido University Hospital truly enriching and inspiring.

Reflection on the Hokkaido University International Clinical Exchange Program

Hello, my name is Kweon Sunu, a medical student at Kyungpook National University. I had the privilege of participating in the international clinical exchange program at Hokkaido University.

During my three-week training in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, I gained not only medical knowledge but also valuable experiences and insights. The professors and doctors were incredibly supportive, providing detailed explanations and ensuring I understood despite language barriers. Their guidance deepened my interest in orthopedics and motivated me to continue my studies.

Beyond academics, I experienced Japanese culture firsthand. The doctors introduced me to local dining traditions, life in snowy Hokkaido, and insights into medical practice in Japan. These experiences broadened my perspective on global healthcare.

Though three weeks felt short, the memories and lessons I gained will stay with me forever. I hope to return as a doctor and reconnect with my mentors.

Finally, I sincerely thank the dean and the International Exchange Promotion Center for this invaluable opportunity.



Kweon Sunu

Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Period: January 27 – February 14, 2025

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

International Hour

The 69th International Hour – Germany

We are delighted to report that we have held the International Hour!

On the 21st February 2025, Ms. Anna Lomidze & Mr. Bosse Thiel made an amazing presentation for the 69th International Hour. They are currently 5th-year student at LMU Munich (ミュンヘン大学) in Germany and started to take clinical electives at Hokkaido University School of Medicine in February. Despite the heavy snow, a good number of students from various departments came to join the event to get to know them and their culture. Before and after the presentation, students had a great time actively interacting and sharing their interests with others beyond the differences in major, nationality, age, etc.

We would like to express our appreciation once again to Ms. Lomidze & Mr. Thiel and to all of the students who joined us.



Presenters Anna Lomidze & Bosse Thiel

with audience
The 69th International Hour, February 21, 2025

Coming Soon!

The 70th International Hour

Presenter...

Lisa Smith

Kia ora

from Aotearoa New Zealand

Haere mai!

Date & Time: **Friday Apr. 18, 2025 12:00- 12:45**
Come and go freely as your class allows
Venue: Medium Conference Room
1F Administration Bldg.
School of Medicine

Participation is Free
Snacks & Beverages will be served

Organiser...
Hokkaido University
Graduate School of Medicine
International Relations Office
International Relations Office
relation@med.hokudai.ac.jp

The 70th International Hour – New Zealand

We are pleased to announce that we will hold the next International Hour in April 2025.

We, the International Relations Division, are hosting the event to welcome exchange students as speakers and share students' knowledge of the cultural backgrounds of their individual countries.

On Friday, April 18, we welcome a student from New Zealand, Ms. Lisa Smith from the University of Auckland, as a presenter of the 70th International Hour.

Those who just missed the last meeting can always catch up with us. We look forward to having you!

<Event Information>

- Date/Time: Friday, April 18, 2025 @ 12:00- 12:45
Come and go freely as your class allows.
- Venue: Medium Conference Room, 1F Administration Building, Graduate School of Medicine
Admission is Free. Snacks and Beverages will be served.
* Registration preferred. Still, we welcome walk-ins!



Voice of the International Students 医学研究院 国際連携部門だより Vol.36
Issued by the International Relations Division, Faculty of Medicine, Hokkaido University

Correspondence to : relation@med.hokudai.ac.jp

Website URL : <https://edu.med.hokudai.ac.jp/international-relations/>