

Report

My Name is Chalil Saddat and I am a medical student from Germany. I am in my last year before graduation (in German: Praktisches Jahr), where I have to collect clinical experiences in different departments. I did a two month internship in surgery departments in the Union Hospital Wuhan, which belongs to the Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST). I have been in the Breast- and Thyroid surgery, plastic surgery and was even allowed to experience the cardiovascular surgery, which is one of the most famous in whole China.



The first thing I noticed: everything is much bigger than in Germany. Wuhan – with a population more than 10million people – is nearly 20 times bigger than my hometown Essen, where I go to the University-Hospital. The outpatient building reminds me of a German train station, since I never saw German hospitals that crowded. The Union Hospital is famous in the whole Province called Hubei, so there are even more patients coming here. Since China does not have the concept of the general family-doctors and specialists with licensed praxis (German: niedergelassene Haus- & Fachärzte), the hospitals have to deal with even more patients, who come here for every kind of reason. Spending time with the doctors, we noticed that they are really busy and a have a lot of work to do.



Language is a big issue here. Many people in China know English, but they don't practice it, so they can't talk with us. Thankfully we always met some doctors, who speak very good English and took us along, to understand the routine work of the doctors here in China. The daily visiting of the many patients was really amazing, because the doctors deal with many patients.



We were also allowed to take part in the processes, like Wound-Cleaning, physical examination and assisting in the operations. Not just the hospital itself is much bigger than German ones; the operation floor is also enormous. I found some German machines next to other medical equipment in the operation rooms; I could see modern and innovative operations and always had a friendly team showing me what they are doing and what we have to think of. I had a great time here and learned a lot (not just about surgery, but also about different health systems, which are designed for and geared to the needs of the local people).



I definitely can recommend an internship in the Union Hospital; and I also hope that students from the HUST will come to Germany and gain experiences like I did in China.