

## Inbound exchange students from Australia

In the last semester, the School welcomed three inbound second-year exchange students from Australia. They are Ms Georgia Jean Bartie and Ms Maria Anne Pastucci, studying the Bachelor of Nursing at La Trobe University; and Ms Nicola Marnice Bignell, a Bachelor of Nursing student at Queensland University of Technology.

Georgia and Maria were each on a 3-week clinical placement in the Medical and Geriatric Ward at the Caritas Medical Centre. Nicola enrolled in our BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme (53455) for a 4 month semester-study-exchange.

They told us why they chose Hong Kong for their placements or semester study, and what they have learnt from the exchange.

**Q: What were your reasons for choosing Hong Kong as the place of your exchange?**

**Georgia and Maria:** We had never been here. We didn't want to go to the developing world, and we knew that HK is quite advanced in nursing practices.

**Nicola:** Hong Kong is a vibrant place. It is small but with so many things around. It is a place I always want to visit.

**Q: What are the differences in nursing practice/ education between Hong Kong and Australia?**

**Georgia and Maria:** There is not much difference in nursing practice between Hong Kong and Australia, but the placement is more structured in Australia. In Australia, we were assigned to a nurse and we followed the nurse, and walked around the ward. We knew our routine, tasks, and we followed the same patients. Here, we were given the task sheet every day, and then we discussed with other students on placement what to do or consulted our supervisor. Patient turnover was high, and we followed many different patients here.

The other difference is in the patient relationship. In Australia, nurses normally involve patients during the handover of duties after a shift, and the related nurses will discuss the patient's information in front of the patient.

**Nicola:** The learning is more class-based in HK. Tutorials are much longer and new topics are discussed in tutorials. In Australia, our lectures are mainly online. We have to attend tutorials, but they are shorter, and mainly for revising the concepts learnt in lectures.

My University emphasises more on individual assignments and exams. Here, I got more opportunities to work in a group and I research in the library with my group mates, and we gave an interactive media presentation. It was interesting for me.

**Q: What have you learnt from this exchange programme?**

**Georgia and Maria:** The placement has increased our cultural awareness. For example, during the placement, a patient passed away. We were told that it was inappropriate to stand at the end of the patient's bed (the dead body) because the Chinese believe that this would bring bad luck. We found that many patients refused to take pain killers, such as Panadol, because they believed that these medicines were not good for their health. We also learnt how to work with people using English as their second language.

**Nicola:** I have gained a better understanding of Hong Kong and its culture. I have developed new friendships with the local and international students.

**Q: What impressed you most during the exchange?**

**Georgia and Maria:** Two patients were particularly good to us. They learnt simple English from our supervisor Ms Jacqueline Ho, and they kept encouraging us by saying that we were pretty and we were good. They always gave us thumbs ups.

**Nicola:** Dr Rick Kwan, the subject lecturer of Gerontological Nursing (SN402), took us to visit a non-governmental organisation, the LinkAges Lam Ki Yip Centre. During the visit, we wore the aged simulation sets to experience the limited motions of our elbow joints and knees. I was also given a wet pad to sit on to feel the experience of using an adult diaper. These were very interesting experiences.



◀ Nicola celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in HK and her parents came over to visit her.



◀ Nicola tried to fill a form while wearing the aged simulation set and a pair of poor reading glasses. A way to experience the inconveniences felt by the elderly due to musculoskeletal and vision changes.



◀ Mr Arkers Wong took Nicola and other exchange students to the Ocean Park.



◀ Nicola attended the class with the local students.



◀ Maria (1<sup>st</sup> from left) and Georgia (1<sup>st</sup> from right) were on the clinical placement with the local students. They were supervised by Ms Jacqueline MC Ho (4<sup>th</sup> from right).



◀ Maria and Georgia took a stroll through Mongkok and enjoyed its night markets with the local students.