Report of my Erasmus Rotation in Germany Moritz Wahler

I did my eramus as a part of my practical rotation during the last year of medical school. The whole stay took part in Leopoldina Hospital in Schweinfurt, Germany. There I did a rotation in internal medicine, gynecology, neurology and surgery.

The rotation started with me going into internal medicine. There I worked primarily in the gastroenterology department. As it was the start of my whole rotation, I aquired the basic skills of working as doctor like proper history taking, consulting patients and getting to know the standard operating procedures. My task in the gastroenterology department was to take blood and proper history, examine the new patients and then present my findings and a possible treating strategy to the doctor in charge during rounds. Furthermore i learned to interprete lab results, getting to know the basics of abdominal ultrasound and assist the doctors during gastroscopy. After the first weeks, I was allowed to do some ultrasounds under supervision so that I aquired the motor skills. Overall the rotation suited me very well, as I got to know the basics of working in a hospital.

After internal medicine i did my rotation in gynecology. Here I quickly got part of the team and got to participate in c-sections and surgeries. As I already knew the basics of hospital work, which I aquired in internal medicine, I was allowed to take care of my own patients. I was always under proper supervision, which helped me to quickly see my own faults and reajust my working habits. As I also was stationed in the obestrics department, I also learned the basics of newborn care. In hindsight during this rotation I learned the fastest and was allowed to work freely.

After that I switched to the neurology department, where I primarily worked at the stroke unit. I gained the ability to quickly differentiate the major severe clinical manifestations of a stroke. As I only was there for 2 weeks, I unfortunaly wasn't able to get into the subject as deep as i would have liked. Nevertheless during this time, I learned the basics of neurology, which are essential in hospital work.

The last part of my erasmus took place in the surgery department.. For the most part I worked in general surgery and vascular surgery. For one week I also got to visit the traumatolgy department. In surgery my main work was to assist in the operating room. After some days I was allowed to do basic surgical tasks like drilling into bones and suturing. Therefore my motor skills quickly got better within weeks. As I want to work in a surgery department as a doctor after my studies, this last part of my rotation was very usefull and fun for me.

In conclusion I am very happy, that I was allowed to take part in the erasmus program. During my time I aquired many medical skills, which I believe will be more than helpul in my later career.