

Sarah Johnson – Elective Week 1.

I arrived in Sydney almost a week ago and have just about got over the jet lag! The flight was long, but pretty good and it was so nice to meet relatives at the other end. I'm staying with my uncle, aunt, and cousin, George in their house in Haywards Bay, which is around 15 miles from Wollongong Hospital. Over my first weekend, we stayed quite local to Wollongong and visited the beach (where else would a tourist go?!) and I had a practice run of driving to the hospital. The hospital is big- I would say a similar size to UHW in Cardiff. I'm placed in the anaesthetics department. I chose this specialty as it's something we don't get a placement in at University. Also, as you might know, I find the management of patients who are really poorly due to sepsis interesting. This is something I've done research on before and I'm looking to compare to U.K. practice while I'm over here.

This week has mostly been orientation- finding my way around, going to teaching with the medical students here and learning how to use the computer system, but I've already managed to help deliver a baby by Caesarean section, and practiced my cannulation skills using (surprisingly!) completely different kit. I'm hoping to knuckle down on my research project next week, and hopefully do some work out of hours where I can get more hands-on as there are far less staff around!

Sarah.

