

**Name:** Ayaz Kurji

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**Country:** Kenya

**Location:** Nairobi

**Rural/Urban:** Urban

**Hospital or non-hospital placement:** Hospital

**Type of placement:** Pre-clerkship

**Date:** June 14 – July 27, 2011

**Organization:** Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi

**Website:** <http://hospitals.aku.edu/nairobi/Pages/home.aspx>

**Main language spoken:** English

**Other language(s):** Swahili

**Project description:** Spent four weeks at the AKUHN observing physicians who were trained mostly in Canada and Britain.

**Student experience description:** Also spent time at the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi, the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and an AKUH satellite clinic in Morogoro, Tanzania. Learned more about the medical needs and challenges in East Africa and the reasons behind these trends, about East African cross-cultural issues and the social context, and about hospital management from conversations with the COO. Also learned more about medicine in general, and gained a better understanding of what it would be like to live and work in East Africa. Also set up and managed two temporary medical clinics, and developed a healthcare communication protocol in preparation for the visit of His Highness the Aga Khan IV.

**Placement safety:** Yes, because I took the proper precautions and because I was in one of the safest parts of Nairobi. The hospital area is very safe, and I spent the majority of my time there. Whenever I was in other parts of Nairobi, I was careful to always be with someone else, to avoid being out when it was dark, and to not wear/carry anything of value (e.g. watch, designer shirt, smartphone). I was very cautious and thankfully I personally had no unsafe experiences.

**Educational experience (out of 10):** 9

**Social/cultural experience (out of 10):** 9

**Does the organization have any religious affiliations?** Yes

**At any point did you feel expected to participate in religious activity?** No

**Program fee:** 2000 Kenyan shillings (approx. \$20)

**Dress code:** Clinical Skills attire, with clinical jacket and identifying nametag.

**Accommodation:** I stayed with one of the family medicine doctors I was shadowing, her husband (who was the COO of the hospital), and their two children at their home about a 15min drive away (if it wasn't raining). Great accommodation, and they were all extremely hospitable. They have now moved back to Canada.

**Accommodation cost:** None

**Helpful hints:** Also spend some time in the satellite clinics or another hospital, to see what the majority of healthcare in East Africa is really like.

Feel free to email me if you would like contact information, or if you would like to discuss other helpful hints!

**Questions you are glad to have asked before leaving on placement:** Safety and security measures

**Questions you WISHED you asked before leaving on placement:**

**Overall, would you recommend this placement for future students?** Yes