

What is VIS ?

The International Relations Division of the Faculty of Medicine issues VIS to send out the live messages from International Students of Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Science and School of Medicine, and to promote the exchange of intercultural information. We hope VIS helps to cultivate intercultural communications and boost international exchanges.

VISの発行の目的は、医学院・医理工学院・医学部医学科の留学生の生の声を発信することと、異文化間の情報交換を促進することです。VISが異文化間のコミュニケーションを養い、国際交流を実行していくうえで役立つことを望みます。

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS



Runxi Liu

Department of Gastroenterological Surgery I
Period: May 25 – June 19, 2026

From Adelaide University, Australia

My experience at the Hokkaido University Hospital has been both an educational and enjoyable experience. My time spent at Sapporo will be something I will look back on and forever cherish.

I had the privilege of observing a variety of surgeries at the Gastroenterology Surgery I department. Some of these include robotic liver resections, silo operation for congenital omphalocele, Kasai procedure for congenital biliary atresia and rectal cancer resections.

Despite the language barrier, I always felt welcomed by all the doctors, residents and staff members at the department. Everyone was always enthusiastic to get me involved and translate important information for me. Observing the clinical practice in a different healthcare system also allowed me to reflect on some of the systematic and cultural differences in medicine.

As a city, Sapporo was charming and beautiful during my visit. I was able to sightsee in my free time, visiting the Maruyama park, Otaru, Hakodate and Mount Yotei. I was amazed at the beautiful nature, and definitely can see myself returning for more! I was also fortunate to meet many Japanese and international medical students, forming friendships and professional connections that greatly enriched my experience. Overall, this placement was an invaluable opportunity for both personal and professional growth.

I had an amazing time at Hokkaido University Hospital with the Obstetrics and Gynaecology team! Both teams welcomed me warmly and included me as part of their team, allowing me to observe a range of patient interactions and surgeries. Despite the language barrier, all the doctors endeavoured to communicate with me, whether through English or via translation – I tried my best with my limited Japanese as well! I was able to form great connections with the doctors on these teams, and greatly appreciated their kindness and genuineness towards me. I was able to observe how different the healthcare system is in Japan versus Australia, including cultural and logistical differences. I was also fortunate to observe a wide range of surgeries, the most exciting of which was the HICARi trial, an innovative phase II trial looking at the use of photoimmunotherapy for certain vulvar, vaginal, and cervical cancers.

Thank you, Hokkaido University Hospital and the Obstetrics and Gynaecology teams, for having me!



Wendy Dai

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Period: May 25 – June 19, 2026

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

My three-week clinical attachment at Hokkaido University Hospital was an extremely valuable and memorable experience. During the attachment, I had the opportunity to observe and participate in both the obstetrics and gynecology departments. Compared with the packed and intense schedule in Hong Kong, I was exposed to many hands-on learning opportunities that are less commonly available to medical students. One particularly memorable experience was participating in a natural delivery simulation session, where I learned the basic maneuvers and practical considerations involved in different vaginal delivery scenarios. I was also given opportunities to observe and perform ultrasound examinations with real patients. The doctors patiently explained the orientation of the ultrasound images, fetal positions, and important anatomical structures, which greatly improved my understanding of obstetric ultrasound. Being able to correlate textbook knowledge with real clinical practice was highly educational.

I was also fortunate to have several chances to scrub in during surgeries in both the obstetrics and gynecology departments. Observing operations in the operating theatre allowed me to appreciate sterile procedures and precise surgical techniques and steps, which indeed deepened my interest in the surgical side of obstetrics and gynecology a lot, and gave me a better understanding of the daily workflow in the specialty.

What impressed me most throughout the attachment was the kindness and enthusiasm of the doctors and residents. Outside of clinical teaching, the doctors and residents also treated me warmly on a personal level. They often invited me to meals and spent time chatting with me, which allowed me to learn more about Japanese medical culture and daily life. These interactions made the attachment not only educational, but also culturally enriching and personally meaningful.



Chan, Ying Hei

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Period: April 6 – April 24, 2026

During my three-week attachment at Hokkaido University Hospital, I had the opportunity to shadow doctors in the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery department.

I attended conferences and grand rounds, where I observed case discussions and clinical decision-making. One of the most memorable cases involved a patient with tongue carcinoma requiring reconstruction using an anterolateral thigh flap. This case highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration, as surgeons, oncologists, and other specialists worked together to plan and execute a complex, function-preserving procedure. It gave

me a deeper appreciation of how coordinated care can significantly impact patient outcomes. In the operating room, I was fortunate to scrub in and gain hands-on exposure, which deepened my understanding of surgical techniques and sterile procedures. The suturing lessons were particularly valuable, allowing me to practice and refine essential skills. Additionally, I observed outpatient clinics, where I learned the importance of communication and patient-centered care.

Beyond the clinical experience, I also had the chance to connect with local Japanese medical students. Building friendships with them enriched my cultural understanding and made the experience more meaningful, as we shared perspectives on medical training and daily life.

Overall, this attachment certainly strengthened my interest in plastic and reconstructive surgery and broadened my clinical perspective.



Chan, Chi Huen

Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Period: April 6 – April 24, 2026

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong



Mao, Shing Yui

Department of Gastroenterological Surgery 1
Period: May 11 – May 29, 2026

My clinical attachment at the Department of Gastroenterological Surgery I at Hokkaido University Hospital was an incredibly enriching experience in my medical education. During my attachment, I had the invaluable opportunity to observe highly complex and rare surgical cases, most notably a living donor liver transplantation and an omphalocele repair. Witnessing the meticulous orchestration of these advanced procedures gave me a deep appreciation for the complexities of surgical anatomy and perioperative patient management. Furthermore, I was deeply amazed by the precision and technological sophistication of robotic surgery performed at the center, which is truly eye opening. I was also very honored that I was able to scrub in and participate in a few surgeries.

Beyond the clinical exposure, I am extremely grateful to the entire department for their exceptional hospitality. From day one, the faculty, surgeons, and local medical students made me feel incredibly welcomed and integrated into their team. They demonstrated an immense enthusiasm for teaching, consistently taking the time out of their demanding schedules to explain complex operative steps, discuss diagnostic reasoning, and answer my questions despite the presence of a language barrier. I would also like to thank Dr Masaaki Watanabe particularly for his guidance throughout my 3-week stay.

This supportive and inspiring academic environment made my learning experience both deeply educational and thoroughly enjoyable. I highly recommend this placement to future students and suggest maintaining this excellent international clinical exchange program.

My attachment at the department of cardiovascular medicine at Hokkaido University over 3 weeks has truly been a fun and rewarding journey.

A typical day in cardiovascular medicine would start by morning rounds, where doctors discuss management plans and visit the patients to see if they are doing well. After rounds, I would usually observe procedures such as cardiac catheterization, echocardiogram or ablation therapy. The doctors were very friendly, taking time to explain the procedure and answer my questions. All these greatly enriched my exposure in cardiovascular medicine.

Besides clinical experiences, I also chatted with doctors and medical students in Japanese. It is interesting to learn the differences in training pathways and healthcare systems between Japan and Hong Kong. I was given the opportunity to participate in a department dinner, during which I experienced the Japanese drinking culture and had lots of fun.

During leisure time, I actively explored different areas and restaurants around Sapporo. I even had two trips during weekends, travelling to Wakkanai, Hakodate and Noboribetsu. I must say the food and scenery in Hokkaido were extraordinarily good.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone in the department of cardiovascular medicine for their kindness and hospitality.



So, Long Ting

Department of Cardiovascular Medicine
Period: May 11 – May 29, 2026

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, Germany



Sophia Leonhardt

Department of Thoracic Surgery
Department of Gastroenterological Surgery I
Period: May 18 – July 10, 2026

The 8 weeks I spent at Hokkaido University Hospital were full of exciting and unique experiences. Everyone made me feel so welcome and made their best effort to translate into English to include me into the team. I got to meet so many nice people including doctors, HU medical students and other international students. Especially the international office did a great job at welcoming us and guiding us through this experience. At my placements, I was able to see many different surgeries and procedures firsthand and learn about a variety of diagnoses. I could even see some very rare cases which were quite educational. I also took part in daily ward rounds and conferences and was able to practice some skills in a suturing class. Apart from my time in the hospital, I had a lot of fun experiencing the Japanese culture in many different ways. Together with other international students I went for many sightseeing trips, tried a lot of tasty food and learned so much about living in Japan. Overall, my time in Hokkaido, Sapporo and the HU hospital was a once in a lifetime experience, that I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life.

International Hour

The 72nd International Hour – Switzerland

We are delighted to report that we have held the International Hour.

On June 9, 2026, Mr. Arnaud Séchaud presented topics related about his home country for the 72nd International Hour.

This time, we invited exchange students from four other universities: LMU Munich from Germany, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University from Taiwan, The University of Queensland and Adelaide University from Australia, who were also participating in HU elective placement. Our students, including graduate students, enjoyed warm and lively conversations. Although our meetings are limited to the lunch hour, it was enriching time, listening to first-hand stories about everyday life and the cultural atmosphere of Switzerland.



We hope these meetings inspire you to engage more confidently in international opportunities.

Please look forward to our next meeting in November.



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