Medical student electives in Obstetrics and Gynaecology are welcome at the Mercy Hospital for Women. There is a limited capacity of two elective students at any one time. The Mercy Hospital for Women is the second largest obstetric hospital in Victoria, delivering nearly 6000 women. During the student term, there are approximately 25 medical students (in four ten-week blocks) from the University of Melbourne with whom elective students are encouraged to integrate. Elective students also join in the teaching programme for the local students in obstetrics, gynaecology and neonatal paediatrics.

The elective student programme includes experience in the antenatal clinics, gynaecology clinics, operating theatre, delivery suite and neonatal paediatrics. It is usually possible to participate in some vaginal births - but only during times of low demand by the local medical students. Special interests (e.g. gynaecological oncology may be accommodated).

Given these elective placement are in a hospital, we have a duty of care to protect and not place at unreasonable risk its patients. Therefore, we must ensure the suitability of each prospective student application prior to offering an elective placement. Applicants must therefore contact the relevant local police force to obtain a current, authorised police record report (a “police check”) on themselves for forwarding in confidence to us.

Please note that if you are accepted for an elective, you will not be an enrolled student of the University and you will therefore not be covered by the University's insurance. You must therefore arrange your own personal accident insurance, health insurance, professional indemnity insurance, and public liability insurance.

International students should contact the nearest Australian Diplomatic Post to confirm details of visa requirements, permissible length of stay etc. Any elective is subject to a visa being granted. Please don't apply for a training visa, a visitors visa is sufficient.

Accommodation may be available – depending on demand – from Austin Clinical School. For contact, please email eba@unimelb.edu.au.

An administrative fee of $100 per week will apply. To pay, go to this link


Please note that we are not able to offer you any remuneration or employment.

What to bring:

a) Neat clothing including neck tie for males
b) Padlock - so bags can be securely locked away during the day
c) $50 deposit on key card for hospital access

Inquiries and applications should be directed to Professor Michael Permezel on m.permezel@unimelb.edu.au.