

Zaragoza, Spain

While in Zaragoza, Spain I shadowed in 4 different health centers (3 hospitals and a clinic) and in numerous specialties. I began in general pediatrics in El Centro de Salud Arrabal, then I shadowed in the pediatric emergency room of Miguel Servet Hospital where I saw many interesting cases and also watched a delivery and on a separate occasion watched the emergent care of a premature neonate in the NICU. The majority of the children in the ER had a chief complaint of a fever which I believe was the biggest difference that I saw between Spain's healthcare and that of the United States. In the United States, parents do not bring their children to the ER with a fever because it is far too costly, but in Spain parents have the leisure to bring their children to the doctor or hospital whenever they deem it necessary because they are not paying anything for the visit.

I also shadowed in Allergies and Immunology at El Hospital Clínico because I am particularly interested in that field. I was able to learn a lot about the field and I also got to experience a little bit of the Spanish lifestyle as the whole department would take a coffee and cookie break at 11am where we would all go into the nurses' room, cover the tables with table clothes and chat over coffee and cookies for about 20 minutes every day. As is clear from my description of my experience, the program is extremely flexible. It just requires a pretty good level of comfort with the Spanish language and also comfort with talking to the physicians to have them move you to a department in which you would like to shadow. The way I was moved from specialty to specialty was by letting the current physician I was with know what I was interested to see and he or she would give me the contact information of a friend in that field. I would merely email that physician and I would then be shadowing him or her within a couple days. Everyone was extremely friendly and willing to take a student under

their wing as most of them have done the same type of program in the United States or another country at some point or another in their career. In all, my experience in the hospitals was very diverse and I was very glad I had the chance to sample the Spanish lifestyle while getting good clinical experience.