

## Jonathan Tham (Clinical Medicine) - Scarborough General Hospital, Tobago, 2014

I spent seven weeks in Scarborough General Hospital (the only hospital in Tobago). These are my thoughts.

### Generally...

#### ...an elective in Tobago isn't:

- ***Dangerous*** - it's had a lot of bad press recently, however this isn't fair. Trinidad has a reputation for being a bit rough, but Tobago is generally very safe.
- ***Fast paced*** - if like having things done on time, Tobago may not be the place for you. The country runs on 'Tobago time', a concept which is a little tricky when organising the elective!

#### ...an elective in Tobago is:

- ***A little difficult to get around*** - public transport is terrible, you either have to live near the hospital or drive in. Hiring a car isn't that expensive and petrol is five times cheaper than in England. Taxis can also be organised fairly cheaply.
- ***Beautiful*** - Tobago has some of the most amazing scenery that you will ever see, including rainforests and white sand beaches.
- ***Friendly*** - the island is known for this, which coupled with the fact that the local language is English, make everything a little easier!

### Clinically...

#### ...an elective in Tobago isn't:

- ***Like being in a developing country*** - Scarborough general is as well equipped and staffed as a good English DGH. You will not be given more responsibility than a student in this country.

#### ...an elective in Tobago is:

- ***Different*** - you will be able to see many diseases regularly that you won't have the opportunity to see much in England, such as sickle cell anaemia and dengue fever.

If you would like to organise an elective in Tobago, please get in touch with me: my parents go there regularly, and would be able to physically deliver your applications to the hospital. Trust me, this is useful when people persistently refuse to answer emails or phone messages!

All the best

Jonny Tham

[Jt434@cam.ac.uk](mailto:Jt434@cam.ac.uk)

[jvstham@gmail.com](mailto:jvstham@gmail.com)