

Sittisak Kanchanasapha (Sak) , Thailand

My four-week experience at Imperial Charing Cross Neurosurgery has been nothing short of exceptional. It not only deepened my interest in the specialty but also pushed me well beyond my comfort zone, particularly in the theatre. I found myself needing to thoroughly revise anatomy, physiology, and potential surgical complications in order to keep up and make the most of each session. This was especially valuable given that, at my home university, I would not normally undertake a neurosurgery rotation until my sixth year. Being exposed to the specialty at this stage has truly been a unique and formative experience.

The clinic sessions were particularly insightful. Observing real-time decision-making, patient interactions, and management planning gave me a deeper appreciation of the complexity and responsibility involved in neurosurgical care. To my surprise, a lot of cases are actually managed conservatively as opposed to what I had originally imagined.

To be completely honest, I initially found myself drawn to neurosurgery partly because of its reputation. While I was genuinely interested in its concepts, I had not fully appreciated the depth and dedication the field requires. However, after learning under Mr Mendoza and Mr Mariadas, my perspective has changed significantly. Their teaching, mentorship, and passion for the specialty have solidified my desire to pursue a career in neurosurgery.

Overall, I would highly recommend this placement to any student seeking both academic challenge and professional growth. It has been an inspiring and transformative experience.