



Working in the United Arab Emirates

Through the extensive construction activities in the United Arab Emirate (UAE), especially in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, more and more people from around the world are buying properties and moving to live in the UAE.

Even without this fact the need for health care services is growing rapidly. Large and ambitious projects, like Dubai Health Care City and other hospitals and medical centres are in the planning- or building-phase, or even already



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2006. The colleagues from the different medical specialities were very cooperative and visited me regularly in my office for consultations and interpretation of the different reports. Many times a week I was asked for a second opinion about external diagnostic reports.

Working Hours

GDC is a private hospital and has different working hours than the public hospitals.

I worked 48 hours a week: Saturday through Wednesday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Thursday only 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. plus variable stand by service.

In public hospitals working hours are usually 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (45 hours), five days a week plus stand by, depending on the speciality and level of the physician.

Payment

Usually €6,000–8,000 depending on the level and experience years of the physician, housing and flight tickets are paid by the employer, no taxes are paid in the UAE.

Overall Impression

The five weeks in August and September 2006 that I worked in the UAE were very interesting and although the work load was large and some times exhausting, the overall stress factor was in my opinion a little bit less than that we experience in Europe.

Not only the physicians are international, but also the population is international and multicultural in all aspects. The native people of the UAE make less than 20% of the overall population!

Leisure possibilities are largely available and different very good international schools for kids are seen in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi (in case a physician was chosen after his locum service and decides to move to the UAE with his family for some years).

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in service. The need for doctors, from all medical specialities, trained abroad, especially from Europe, the U.S. and Canada is thus increasing. Many of the hospitals of the UAE are being affiliated with international hospitals and clinics: Gulf Diagnostic Center (GDC) for example is affiliated with the famous Mayo clinic, Tawam hospital in Al-Ain is affiliated with John Hopkins Medicine International...etc.

My Personal Experience

The administration system in the UAE is very similar to that of the United Kingdom; all certificates have to be translated into English and certified by a notary public; qualification certificates

and licence have even to be verified by the ministry of justice, ministry of foreign affairs and finally by the embassy of the UAE in the country of origin of the candidates.

As a consultant radiologist I was recruited through Eurojobsmed, a placement agency which contacted the Austrian medical chamber and this contacted me in my hospital in Vienna.

I came to work as locum in GDC in Abu Dhabi for a period of five weeks. The organization of my travel was well planned, the flight ticket price was reimbursed upon arrival and the housing and transportation were very well.

GDC was founded in 1996 and expanded with a new operation theatre and a new patient ward in September 2006. There were more than 50 consultant physicians and specialists from all medical specialities, from different countries of origin, working in the centre.

My work included all diagnostic modalities like ultrasound, conventional radiology, CT-scan and MRI. There was no angiography device in the hospital till its expansion in September

Regional Statistics

Male Life Expectancy (2005)	72.92 years
Female Life Expectancy (2006 est.)	78.08 years
Infant Mortality (2006)	14.09 deaths/ 1,000 live births
Per Capita Income (2005 est.)	US-\$ 43,400

www.theemiratesnetwork.com
A large search directory for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) includes also the best hospitals in the region.

www.dhcc.ae
The official website of the Dubai Health Care City, a regional centre of excellence for medical services, medical education.

www.emirates.org
A guide to the UAE including tourism, travel and culture with good photo-galleries.

www.gulfnews.com
One of the most important daily news papers in UAE (in English).

www.eurojobs.at
A personnel company for recruitment of medical experts

www.goinginternational.org
On course for Your career. The new course catalogue "medicine & health 2007" is out now. Offers a comprehensive overview with 2,500 top courses, master's programs, workshops and conferences for training and education worldwide.