

Humza Ali Nadeem: Expedition Award

As part of my award for the expedition fund I travelled to Lahore in Pakistan in order to carry out research for my final year dissertation project. The project is a vital part of my BA Human Geography course. My dissertation project is focused on illuminating healthcare access for everyday Pakistani citizens and as part of this I travelled to Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in the city of Lahore in order to carry out interviews with patients and members of staff. Over the course of my stay I was able to see the different functions of the hospital in person as well as having the opportunity to carry out my interviews first-hand.

The travel to Pakistan benefited me immensely as without the funding from the expedition fund I would not have been able to carry out the vital primary research that I needed for my research project. As a result of being able to interview patients and staff members I have been able to analyse my results and this has helped me in illuminating the varying healthcare access patterns for the everyday citizens of Pakistan.

I feel that I also developed on a personal level, travelling alone I gained independence and this has benefited me in terms of my organisation, planning and time-keeping. Further, I arranged the placement with the hospital alone, benefiting me as I gained enhanced my communication skills.



Image 1: Entrance of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital, Lahore

From my interviews I was able to assess the extent to which everyday Pakistani citizens were deprived of adequate healthcare access. Furthermore, I as a result of the award and my subsequent travel to Pakistan was able to assess how Pakistani citizens' healthcare access patterns vary and what factors affect their access to healthcare in the country.

Moreover, as a result of the award I was also able to get unprecedented access to the radiation and oncology department at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital. Staff allowed me to see the radiation machines first-hand and to see how they benefited patients directly.

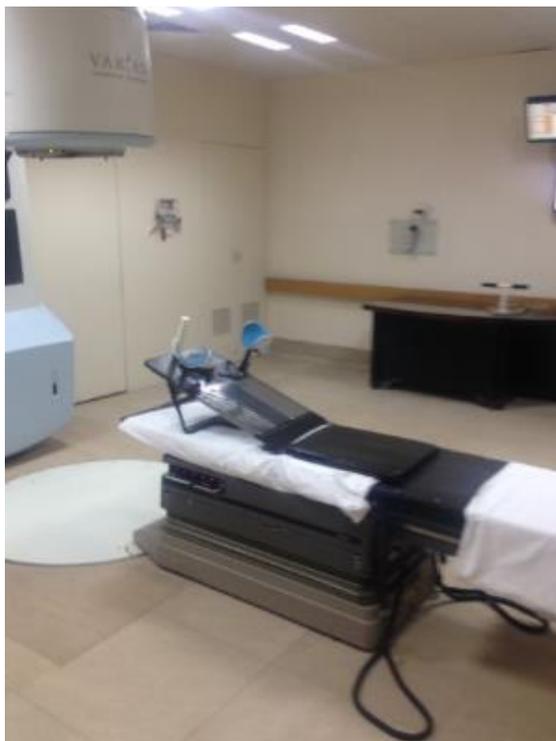


Image Two: 'Varian' - one of five radiation machines at the hospital

Overall, I feel that the award was hugely beneficial to my dissertation project and without it would not have been able to gather the substantial and vital research that I need in order to meet my research project aims for my dissertation.