

Student Elective Report

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| Name | Chie Katsura |
| Medical School | Hull York Medical School |
| Email (optional) | |

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| Country visited | Taiwan |
| City or town | Taipei |
| Hospital/unit/clinic | National Taiwan University Hospital |
| Dates visited | 15/07/2019 – 30/08/2019 |
| Supervising doctor | Dr Jung-Hsien Hsieh |
| Contact details of your host: | Ms I-Wen Chang Teaching Assistant, School of Medicine National Taiwan University College of Medicine No. 1, Sec 1, Ren-Ai Rd., Taipei, Taiwan |

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| Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max) | <p>National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) is one of the biggest tertiary medical centre in Taiwan. The plastic surgery department there covers all aspects of plastic surgery including burns, trauma, breast, hand surgery, craniofacial, head and neck...etc. I was allowed to attend all plastic surgery clinics and surgical lists. I also attended their weekly journal club and departmental meeting. Everyone in the plastic surgery department was so welcoming and approachable.</p> <p>During my elective, I noticed that Taiwan has a very high incidence of oral cancer due to people chewing betel nuts. Hence, I saw a lot of head and neck reconstruction for those patients. I also saw a quite few super microsurgeries such as lymphovenous anastomosis and fingertip revascularisation, which I've never seen before in the UK.</p> <p>I travelled a lot on the weekends. Taiwan has amazing public transport systems that enabled me to easily visit Taiwan's famous sceneries. On the plus side, NTUH and my accommodation was right next to the Taipei Main Station making travelling even more convenient. I also experienced amazing Taiwanese cuisine, Taiwanese Oolong tea and learn about some aboriginal culture.</p> |
| What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max) | <p>The plastic surgeons at NTUH do a lot of combine surgery with other surgical specialties e.g. neurosurgery, ENT, OMFS, and even liver transplant team! It was also eye-opening to see craniofacial surgery (midface advancement) and hand surgery (syndactyly release) for Crouzon syndrome.</p> |

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| | <p>The Taiwan Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (TSRM) organizes a microsurgery summer camp for medical students every year. I was very lucky to be able to attend this 2 days event whilst on my elective in Taiwan. TSRM invited the world-renown plastic surgeon Professor David Chwei-Chin Chuang to shared his experience in microsurgery. I also got to practice vessel and nerve anastomosis on chicken thighs using a Leica microscope.</p> |
| <p>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</p> | <p>I am a native Mandarin speaker, so I did not encounter many problems in the hospital except that I cannot understand Hokkien dialect. However, summer is the typhoon season in Asia. So I've experienced strong wind and heavy rain in Taiwan when a typhoon arrived. Therefore, it can be dangerous to travel around during the typhoon week. Otherwise, Taiwan tends to be very hot and sunny so I made sure to cover myself with good sun protection. Taiwan has also reported a few cases of Dengue Fever recently. Therefore, I would highly recommend buying a strong mosquito repellent.</p> |
| <p>What accommodation was provided?</p> | <p>I stayed at the Jing-Fu Residential Alumni Hall during my elective. I shared a twin room with another student who's also doing her elective at NTUH. Students on elective get a discount for staying there as well. The facility at the accommodation is basically like a hotel with a powerful air conditioner and TV, which has HBO and all sorts of satellite channels. The cleaners changed towels and clean the room for us daily.</p> |
| <p>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</p> | <p>Yes, I highly recommend Taiwan and NTUH to anyone who wants to explore plastic surgery and Asia. I am deeply grateful to BAPRAS for giving me the bursary to let me gain more insight into plastic surgery in Taiwan.</p> |
| <p>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</p> | <p>Yes totally. This elective has reinforced my ambition to pursue a career in plastic surgery!</p> |