

Student Elective Report

Name	Gemma Louise Stonier
Medical School	Barts & The London School of Medicine
Email (optional)	

Country visited	India
City or town	Hyderabad
Hospital/unit/clinic	GSR Institute of Craniomaxillofacial and Facial Plastic Surgery
Dates visited	11/05/2019 – 01/06/2019
Supervising doctor	Professor Gosla Reddy
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>During the placement I observed the hospitals clinicians complete surgery, ward rounds and outpatient clinics. There were two operating theatres and on average each theatre treated a minimum of five patients per day. During my 3-week placement this meant I was fortunate to observe lots of different stages of cleft surgery, from cleft lip repair to cleft rhinoplasty. Whilst in theatres I also witnessed anaesthetic inductions and the general running of the operating theatres which is very different to the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Most patients were admitted for one-night post-operatively and stayed in a large ward which accommodated approximately 24 patients and their families. There was also a private ward but this was often unoccupied as most patients receive their treatment via charity funding. The outpatient clinics were conducted in several different languages as there are many dialects in India but the clinicians always kindly translated so I was able to understand. They provided an opportunity to meet the patients, learn of the treatment they had to date, any complications they may have faced as a result of their presentation or treatment as well as providing an opportunity to answer any questions.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>For me the best part was experiencing a different culture and healthcare system to the United Kingdom (UK). I enjoyed embracing the different environment and visited lots of new places, got in the hustle and bustle and enjoyed the food.</p> <p>Both inside and outside the hospital, nothing is wasted and almost everything is reusable; although some of their healthcare practices were very different to the UK it encouraged me to think about what we do in the National Health Service (NHS) and how we could reduce waste and the environmental impact of surgery.</p>

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What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	The roads are very busy and most do not have pavements which makes it very difficult and unsafe to walk from place to place, even if only a short distance. This meant relying on local transport services which were difficult to navigate but we found pre-booked taxi services, such as Ola or Uber, most efficient.
What accommodation was provided?	I stayed in hospital accommodation with 2 others who were also visiting the hospital. It was basic but it was attached to the Cleft Project School which meant I met some of the students who live there and learnt about their lives and the impact the GSR Institute has had on them. It was conveniently located within a 10-15-minute taxi ride from the hospital.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes, especially those with an interest in Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Although I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and learnt about a new area of surgery which isn't commonly encountered at Medical School I don't think this experience alone would be enough for me to consider a career in Plastic surgery. However, I am looking forward to my Foundation Years and what they have to offer; I think that experience is more likely to influence my future career choice.