

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Genevieve McMahon
<b>Medical School</b>	University of Edinburgh
<b>Email (optional)</b>	

<b>Country visited</b>	South Africa
<b>City or town</b>	Manguzi
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Manguzi Hospital
<b>Dates visited</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2019 – 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Dr Philip Vanleene
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	<p>Manguzi is a small, rural, government hospital, with most doctors there doing a bit of everything. I spent a week in each of the main departments: female &amp; male medical, paediatrics, maternity, multi-drug resistant TB and emergency/OPD. I was mainly shadowing doctors but once used to the system I saw patients on my own, with nurse translators (main language is Zulu). I was able to get really hands on and did practical procedures like LPs, neonatal bloods and stitching and debriding in theatre – including debriding some impressive wounds after a hippo attack and amputating a finger! You also get to go to the rural clinics which are a beautiful but bumpy 4x4 ride away, similar to the ‘GP’ concept at home but only have a doctor visiting once a week.</p> <p>Resources are scarce (no ABGs, just x-rays and ultrasound for imaging, drugs often out of stock, barely any computers) but it is amazing what they achieve even so. The pathologies are really interesting – patients tend to present much later, with an incredibly high incidence of HIV, TB and other infectious diseases. You also see a lot of paediatrics and maternity, and can get really involved in theatre if interested.</p>
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	<p>The doctors are all really amazing and get you really involved, the atmosphere and team work is incredible. All medical staff live on-site so it is really sociable in the evenings, and there are amazing places to visit in the area – games parks, amazing beaches, just across the border from both Swaziland and Mozambique. The patients are also really interesting and you will see things you would never see in the UK, and it was good to experience how medicine differs in a low resourced setting with different pressures and pathologies.</p>
<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	<p>If you’re planning on going on elective to see one specific speciality this wouldn’t be the one for you as its much more about dealing with</p>

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<b>words max)</b>	anything that walks through the door. It is also hard to travel about without renting a car – we decided when I arrived to rent one between all the students and couldn't really have done without it in terms of travelling around the surrounding area.
<b>What accommodation was provided?</b>	You live on the hospital site in a 'roundavel', which you share with the other elective students (4 maximum). It is all one room and pretty cosy and basic but is also very reasonably priced, and has all the basics like a kitchenette and a braai! The cleaner Theresa is also brilliant at helping to teach you Zulu. Don't expect luxury but if you all get on it's really fun.
<b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b>	Yes I would – I felt it gave a perfect balance of allowing you to experience new pathologies and get very hands on without ever making you do something you were uncomfortable with and with great supervision. The social atmosphere of the hospital was also amazing making it an easy place to go on elective alone, and the location for travelling was ideal.
<b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b>	Honestly, probably not – the huge range of specialities I got to experience, many all within one day, made me realise I like the idea of being more generalist and perhaps more inclined to go into general or emergency medicine.