

Student Elective Report

Name	Jack Starkie
Medical School	University of Nottingham
Email (optional)	

Country visited	Ghana
City or town	Accra
Hospital/unit/clinic	National Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Centre, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital
Dates visited	22/04/19-19/05/19
Supervising doctor	Mr Laing
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>During my 4 weeks, I spent my time in clinics, on the wards, with the on-call team and in theatre, all being very valuable experiences. During the clinic I saw patients with post-burn contractures and scarring, keloid scars, haemangiomas, rhabdomyosarcoma, hand trauma and various other Plastic Surgical problems. The highlight of being in clinic, was seeing a case of a man who had been working in a recycling plant who suffered a complete hand amputation after getting his hand stuck in one of the machines. The team had managed to replant his hand, and in clinic he was able to pick a toothpick off a table and put it into a sponge with the replanted hand.</p> <p>In theatres, I was able to develop surgical skills and observe complex surgical cases. Cases included skin grafts for burns, flap operations and excisions of skin lesions. The most interesting case was a post electrical burn nasal reconstruction using a forehead flap and cartilage from the ears for the reconstruction. Spending time on the wards I was able to see many heart-breaking cases of burns such as an acid attack on a young girl, and young infants suffering burns over most of their bodies from falling into fires or boiling water.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>The best things were the interesting cases which you would struggle to see in the UK. You get to see a lot more cases of burns than you would in the UK, due to a lack of health and safety in the workplace and the use of open fires for cooking. However, this is heart breaking to see, especially the children on the wards with horrific burns.</p> <p>Another positive, is the friendly staff who would love chatting to you and</p>

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	the consultants and residents are keen on teaching. Also, the country is great with lots to do on weekends.
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	I got to scrub in less than I would have liked but this is understandable with there being many surgical trainees also at the hospital. Also, many theatre cases get cancelled which can be frustrating as you sometimes have to wait a while for the next case.
What accommodation was provided?	I went with the company Elective Ghana that provided accommodation which was a nice shared house with other elective students that was 15 mins walk from the hospital.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes, as you get to see lots of interesting cases and all the medical staff are friendly, so it is a valuable learning experience.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes the elective was a great insight into a career in plastic surgery.