

Student Elective Report

Name	Ji Hye Moon
Medical School	King's College London
Email (optional)	

Country visited	South Korea
City or town	Seoul
Hospital/unit/clinic	Seoul National University Hospital, Department of Plastics and Reconstruction
Dates visited	15/04/2019 – 10/05/2019
Supervising doctor	Professor Hak Chang
Contact details of your host:	Ms Hee-Eun Kwo Coordinator, Office of International Affairs Seoul National University College of Medicine

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>I spent four weeks with the Department of Plastics and Reconstruction at the Seoul National University Hospital which is a top tertiary hospital in South Korea.</p> <p>My placement was time intensive and I spent most of my time in theatre observing a wide range of complex plastic and reconstructive surgeries. I spent two weeks with the adult team and two weeks with the paediatric team.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>The best thing about this placement was that this being a top teaching and research hospital in South Korea I saw a very wide range of complex surgeries from facial and cranial reconstructions to breast and hand surgeries using cutting edge techniques. I also had the opportunity to accompany both the adult and paediatric plastics teams which made my four week placement really interesting.</p> <p>In addition, I really enjoyed attending the weekly journal club presentations where the residents presented new publications in the field of plastic surgery and reconstruction in both English and in Korean. This provided a good opportunity for me to learn more about the specialty, ask questions and improve my level of professional Korean.</p>
What problems did	My main worry before arriving in Seoul was that my lack of medical

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you encounter? (120 words max)	<p>Korean would prove a challenge for my placement. However, this worry was unfounded, as most of the surgical trainees and the Consultants at the department spoke a good level of English. In addition, I found that most medical/technical terminologies used in Korea are in English.</p> <p>The problem that I did face was that this placement was mainly observational which did not meet my expectations for a more hands-on placement. In Korea, surgical trainees spend most of their time assisting in theatres so there were frequently four surgeons scrubbed up during operations which limited the opportunities for me and the other medical students to scrub and assist.</p>
What accommodation was provided?	<p>I chose to stay in the university accommodation (the Global Centre) for visiting researchers and students. This was ideal as I had a great time socialising with other elective students and the accommodation was 5 minutes away from the hospital.</p>
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	<p>Yes I would recommend Seoul National University for elective placement to other medical students interested in Plastics and Reconstruction. However, students should be aware that there may be limited opportunities for patient contact and hands-on experience.</p>
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	<p>Yes, definitely. I didn't have much exposure to plastic and reconstructive surgery prior to this placement and I was inspired by what I saw during my elective in South Korea.</p>