

Student Elective Report

Name	Josh Clark
Medical School	University of Glasgow
Email (optional)	

Country visited	Australia
City or town	Perth
Hospital/unit/clinic	Fiona Stanley Hospital
Dates visited	15/07/2019 – 09/07/2019
Supervising doctor	Ms Helen Douglas
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>I was able to see a huge variety in the range of patients that present to the burns unit in Perth. I seen some present with minor scalds, deeper burns from fire pit and “burning off” accidents and even two >50% TBSA burns of patients in near fatal car crashes. It was interesting learning of the different surgical approaches to certain burns, whether it be the use of skin grafts, local flaps and recell spray on skin. Additionally, it was fascinating to see some burns which looked quite significant on first presentation but were actually able to heal with secondary intention given the appropriate dressings were used.</p> <p>As well as regular ward duties such as taking bloods and observations etc. I was able to get a lot of hands on experience in theatres as well. I scrubbed in for every case I seen in theatre and was able to assist with suturing, taking and placing grafts and harvesting cells for the ReCell system.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>Apart from the hands-on experience I had in the ward and theatre the best part of my trip was how welcoming all of the staff were to me and made me feel like part of the team in the weekly MDTs and morning ward rounds. They also showed genuine interest about learning medicine in Glasgow compared to WA as well as my interests outside of education, giving me lots of recommendations of things to do in Australia. All of the doctors from junior level to consultants were more than happy to provide teaching and some often went out their way to involve me in teaching opportunities.</p>
What problems did	

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you encounter? (120 words max)	I helped collect data for an audit that was being run in the unit, however, the hospital and University of Western Australia does not regularly provide visiting students with access to their computer systems. This meant that it took around 2 weeks of the 4 before I was able to start collecting data freely with my own log in which therefore gave me less time. Other than this there was no issues at all.
What accommodation was provided?	None. I arranged private accommodation in an Airbnb for some days and stayed with family the remainder of the time.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes, I would definitely recommend this elective to other students. The hospitality of the staff in the unit as well as the hands on experiences that I had made the trip both enjoyable and educational.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	My visit to the Burns Unit at FSH in Perth has definitely cemented my interest in following a career in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, especially in the sub-specialty of burns.