

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Anam Asad
<b>Medical School</b>	University of Leicester
<b>Email (optional)</b>	

<b>Country visited</b>	UK
<b>City or town</b>	Manchester
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Burns Centre, Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester Foundation Trust
<b>Dates visited</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 – 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Mr Adam Reid
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	<p>During my elective placement I was able to get a hands-on experience of Burns and Plastics at the Adults Burns Centre, Wythenshawe Hospital. My typical day at the Burns centre began with a handover at 8am followed by a ward round whereby patient's wounds were reviewed and their concerns addressed. An MDT meeting would follow where each patient was discussed. Following this, I would get involved with any jobs on the ward including clerking new patients, writing up discharge letters and updating prescriptions. In the afternoons, I would either go to theatre, spend time at outpatient clinics or work on my research project. Whilst in theatre I was able to assist with simple tasks whilst also learning about common procedures undertaken by the plastic surgeons including skin grafting and skin flap surgery. I also used the 6 week elective to work on a research project with the Burns team. I conducted a retrospective review investigating the effect of hypothermia on mortality in severe burn victims. I looked at all the admissions to the Burns Centre for the preceding 5 years and looked for associations between the temperature on admission and patient mortality. This project is still ongoing and I am still working closely with the team with the aim of presenting my work at a national conference.</p>
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	<p>I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of my elective placement which makes it difficult to choose a particular highlight. One particular aspect I enjoyed was being able to follow the patients journey throughout their time at the Burns Centre. One patient in particular, I was able to follow their hospital journey from admission, to theatre to post op ward based care and then a successful discharge home.</p> <p>I also felt like a very included and valued member of the team. All the staff at the Burns Centre were exceptionally welcoming and happy to teach me surgical principles and answer any of my questions. It was a very lovely environment to have been part of.</p>

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<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	As a visiting student at a new Hospital Trust I did encounter some logistical issues at the start of my elective. This included having some difficulties sorting out IT access. Regarding my research project, I also tackled some problems regarding data analysis whereby I had a steep learning curve when it came to using statistical principles.
<b>What accommodation was provided?</b>	Private accommodation was arranged which was located close to the hospital.
<b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b>	I had an extremely positive elective experience that I would recommend to everyone. During my time at Medical School I had not gained any experience in plastic surgery or burns. More importantly prior to my elective I felt very unprepared with how to deal with these patients in the acute setting (something which could easily present to A&E). Plastics is a speciality that often gets overlooked by the undergraduate medical school curriculum and with burns being a subspeciality of Plastics, this is also neglected. Through this elective I was able to learn how to deal with common plastics and burns presentations and how to manage them in the acute setting whilst also being aware of when further specialist review would be required. I think this is an invaluable experience for all medical students. I also thoroughly enjoyed undertaking a research project throughout my elective placement and being guided by my excellent supervisors to help achieve my research goals.
<b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b>	Throughout Medical School I have always aspired to be a surgeon however I have remained open minded regarding which surgical speciality I would like to pursue. I was keen to explore plastic surgery to gain a better understanding as to what the day to day life might entail. Following such a positive experience during my elective I am definitely aiming to pursue a career as a plastic surgeon. I am extremely grateful to my inspiring supervisors for making me feel like such a valued member of the team and also to BAPRAS for supporting my elective.