



BAPRAS

British Association of Plastic
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

Student Elective Report

Please return to: secretariat@bapras.org.uk

Please complete this report form as honestly as possible so that others considering an elective may benefit from your experience. If you visited more than one place, please complete separate forms for each. Please bear in mind that we will be posting this report on our website for others to read.

Student Elective Report

Name	JOEL ZAGHBOUR
Medical School	University of Dundee
Email (optional)	

Country visited	USA
City or town	Manhattan, New York
Hospital/unit/clinic	Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Lenox Hill Hospital, Hudson Regional Hospital, Dagan Clinic, Dr Westreich Clinic
Dates visited	01/08/2022 – 31/08/2022
Supervising doctor	Dr Tal Dagan/ Dr Richard Westreich
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	The placement consisted of clinics whereby scheduled surgeries are based in hospital. The clinic had appointments ranging from review surgeries, follow-up consultations, functional disorder patient presentations and plastics consults. The experience opened my eyes to the importance of insurance and its impact on healthcare. I witnessed the surgeons fight for the patients' corners on both cosmetic cases and essential surgeries.
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	I undertook an incredible experience in New York shadowing experts within some of the busiest facial plastics clinics in the world. Both main surgeons I accompanied had mastered their approaches to facial reconstruction and plastics so it was motivating to understand rhinoplasty and facelift techniques from an expert perspective. I was also invited to assist on multiple occasions which enriched my experience with clinical and surgical knowledge.
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	At first, I struggled to grasp the concept of health insurance and how it even altered the treatment a patient received or what scans they were entitled to. I had seen the surgeons having to justify their every decision to legal systems who often did not agree with the surgeons' plan. By week 3, I realised the immense efforts of healthcare professionals who were working within facial plastics in America in maintaining utmost beneficence for their patients. I also managed to learn of surgeons who abused insurance payouts to perform as many facial plastics procedures as possible for monetary gain. This gave me a great cause for reflecting on our own healthcare system in the UK.
What accommodation was provided?	Airbnb is the mainstay for booking accommodation in New York, especially on a student budget. My advice is to flat share where possible but also to book far in advance. It is also useful to know that

Student Elective Report

	it is illegal to rent any property for under 30 days in the New York State.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	This trip has influenced my career in numerous ways. Not only did I meet incredible professionals who were transforming plastics in a different part of the world, but also I experienced invaluable teaching from them. My supervisor focused on ensuring I was constantly learning and practising suturing skills. New York City itself is a fantastic place for a medical student to grow professionally as well as personally. I managed to make amazing connections with staff and my supervisor.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Following this placement, I am more certain than ever that I'd like to be committed to facial plastic surgery. It was particularly rewarding to see patients transform following trauma. I also realised how much room for innovation there is within facial plastics which makes it very exciting a career to delve into.