



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	Megan Beese
Medical School	University of Leicester
Email (optional)	

Country visited	United Kingdom
City or town	Leeds
Hospital/unit/clinic	Leeds General Infirmary
Dates visited	14 th March – 6 th May 2022
Supervising doctor	Miss. Grainne Bourke and Mr. Ryckie Wade
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>A typical day during my elective began by attending the handover at 7.30am. Here, I would learn about both new cases in the department and the ongoing management of more complex cases. I would then attend theatre lists or clinics during the mornings whilst working on my research project during the afternoon.</p> <p>Scrubbing in everyday led to me gaining some fantastic ‘hands on’ experience in theatres. This included removing skin lesions, closing surgical wounds and managing hand trauma cases. I am confident that the abundance of advice in theatres from the consultants and registrars helped to improve my surgical skills a great deal. I also observed some fascinating highly specialist cases surrounding peripheral nerve injury and congenital upper limb differences.</p> <p>I found the academic component of my working day both interesting and rewarding. I really enjoyed learning more about medical imaging and as a result, I have continued to work with the team on a research project surrounding MRI of the hand. To work in a department with a dedicated academic plastic surgery unit has allowed me to learn more about the clinical presentation of several hand pathologies and enhance my skills in health research methods.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>My supervisors were highly approachable and made it clear that they wanted to ensure my time in the department was personalised to my learning needs and interests. Therefore, this elective period allowed me to enhance my knowledge in health research methods, evidence-based medicine and gain invaluable research experience, which was one of my original primary goals. In addition to this, I thoroughly enjoyed gaining experience in the acute management of hand trauma.</p> <p>Although many of the positive elements of my elective have already been discussed in the previous section of this report, I came across an</p>

	additional learning opportunity to learn about the processes behind organising and carrying out a hand transplantation. The Plastic surgery team in Leeds were the first to carry out this procedure in the UK, making this a truly unique learning opportunity.
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	I would describe this point as more of a challenge rather than a problem. At medical school, MRI is not an area that is covered in any great depth. Therefore, carrying out a research project in MRI has been a steep learning curve, whilst trying to comprehend new terminology such as MRI sequences, rare hand pathologies, amongst more. However, this is a challenge that I found both educational and enjoyable.
What accommodation was provided?	I organised my own accommodation.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	<p>Absolutely. Working with such an approachable team was a fantastic opportunity to ask many of my previously unanswered questions about the specialty. The team in Leeds are pioneering in their field, with incredible ongoing work being carried out in the areas of peripheral nerve injury, hand transplantation and medical imaging.</p> <p>This elective provided me with the opportunity to learn about both the basics and complexities of plastic surgery, allowing me to gain skills that I hope will prove to be an asset to me when beginning my work as a junior doctor. Additionally, I have learnt a great deal about health research, which I look forward to carrying forward into my future career. I enjoyed my time in the department to the extent that I have continued to work with them academically after my elective period.</p>
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes.