



BAPRAS

British Association of Plastic
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

Student Elective Report

The closing date for submission of applications is **10 December** annually.

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	Rebecca Williams
Medical School	Hull York
Email (optional)	

Country visited	England
City or town	Hull
Hospital/unit/clinic	Hull Royal Infirmary/Castle Hill Hospital
Dates visited	12/07 – 25/08/21
Supervising doctor	Mr James Haeney (consultant plastic, reconstructive and hand surgeon)
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>I had the opportunity to attend outpatient clinics and theatres. I experienced elective and emergency surgeries, observing both minor and complex operations. I scrubbed into numerous day cases, which mostly included excision of various skin cancers, therefore my recognition of their notable features developed further. Here, I was educated in the use of local anaesthetic, different sutures, and the types of dressing. In addition, I saw the management of advanced skin cancers, such as wide local excisions, local flaps, and sentinel lymph node biopsies.</p> <p>I spent time with the trauma team, which was always awe-inspiring. I saw inpatients who were under the care of plastics, with common wounds including deliberate self-harm, work related injuries and dog bites. During the placement, I met patients with congenital disorders such as Poland syndrome and saw their corrective surgery for symbrachydactyly, cleft hand reconstruction, as well as thumb duplication and its classification, and hypospadias repair. I enjoyed this aspect more than I initially thought, as here I could see an immediate improvement in form and function that would be a lifelong improvement for the child.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>The best things about the elective was being able to get involved in the surgery. After seeing how a split thickness skin graft was taken, I was able to take one myself under close supervision. Learning to do this plastic surgery technique was exciting and made me feel like I was begin my career in surgery.</p> <p>Another memorable case was an antero-lateral thigh flap, raised to reconstruct a total laryngopharyngectomy. It was a lengthy, but satisfying case, where I learnt about the relevant anatomy, as well as the awesomeness of microsurgery. Here, I had the opportunity of</p>

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	closing the donor site, whilst practising subcuticular suturing. I am very grateful for the support of the consultant plastic surgeons and their registrars.
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	No significant problems were encountered. It should be noted that plastic surgery in Hull is performed in various locations across the two hospitals of HRI and CHH. Trauma and paediatric surgeries are carried out at HRI, whilst elective and day cases and outpatient clinics occur at CHH. My week's timetable therefore required some forward planning, so I did not miss certain operations, as the two hospitals are approximately 5 miles apart.
What accommodation was provided?	No, I arranged my own accommodation through a fellow medical student and friend.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	YES! I definitely would recommend this placement. Initially, I was disappointed that I was not able to travel abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however I think I was able to experience more in Hull with more hands on experience than I would have elsewhere. The team were always approachable, pleased to have me in theatre and happy to impart their knowledge. Therefore, I was able to maximise my learning and exposure to the field of plastics.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Prior to the elective, I thought I had a good understanding of plastics. Now, my knowledge of the breadth of conditions plastic surgeons manage has improved, together with the techniques available to them. This only fueled by ambition to pursue a career in plastic surgery.
Which University are you studying at?	Hull York Medical School