

Student Elective Report

Name	Andrew Wilkinson
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Country visited	Malaysia
City or town	Kuching
Hospital/unit/clinic	Sarawak General Hospital – Plastic Surgery Department
Dates visited	10/07/17 to 04/08/17
Supervising doctor	Mr John Ranjit
Contact details of your host:	drjrn1@gmail.com

<p>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</p>	<p>I spent my time in theatre, in clinics and on ward rounds during my elective at Sarawak. It was a brilliant experience as I was able to witness a great variety of different issues related to plastic surgery.</p> <p>I aimed to spend a great deal of time in theatre and as such, I managed to witness operations that I had not seen back in the UK. These ranged from complex cleft palate reconstructions to TRAM flap operations. It was also interesting comparing the way theatres were run in a different country and the interaction between doctors and nurses in the OT.</p> <p>Furthermore, there was a great deal of burns injuries that required close observation for a lengthy period of time. Therefore, I was able to see patients getting better during the few weeks I spent in the department. This usually involved close monitoring of grafts and flaps.</p>
<p>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</p>	<p>The variety was incredible and to see how life changing plastic surgery can be to patients was again a fantastic experience. There were several patients who suffered terrible burns injuries and were in a great deal of pain. However, they were managed very well by the department and as such it was obvious to see a dramatic improvement post treatment.</p> <p>I was also able to see joint cases with other specialties. This included orthopaedics and ENT and as a result I saw multidisciplinary approaches to treating patients. There was great respect shown by the different specialties to one another and consequently, I believe the patients benefited from this exceptional teamwork.</p>

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What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	Most of the issues were due to the language barrier. However, this was not too much of an issue because the doctors all spoke in English and as such I never felt like I was being left out the conversation!
What accommodation was provided?	Local doctor who coordinates electives can be contacted regarding house nearby the hospital. He can be contacted through gangrenes@yahoo.com
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes. This was a brilliant experience to those interested in the specialty.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Absolutely. This has only reinforced my desire to do surgery as a career.