

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Buket Gundogan
<b>Medical School</b>	University College London Medical School
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<b>Country visited</b>	USA
<b>City or town</b>	Boston, Massachusetts
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital
<b>Dates visited</b>	22 May 2017 – 16 June 2017
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Professor Dennis Orgill
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston USA

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	I carried out a research internship during my elective, in the state-of-the-art Wound Healing and Tissue Engineering Laboratory at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, USA. During my time in the laboratory, I took part in various activities. My bench side laboratory duties involved observing and carrying out practical experiments such as those involving cell culturing, immunohistochemistry and animal models. As well as on-the-ground practical tasks, I also had the opportunity to learn and take part in statistical analysis, contributing to writing the project paper, presenting at the weekly laboratory meeting and reviewing the literature.
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	<p>The best thing about the visit was opportunity to learn about basic scientific research in wound healing and experience research first-hand. I feel this elective has greatly helped me to broaden my experience.</p> <p>Since the laboratory is located in a research-dense area of Boston, with Massachusetts Institute of Technology fairly local, there was also plenty of opportunity to attend very interesting lectures and talks by eminent professors and physicians in the evenings.</p>
<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	Particular challenges I encountered was the steep learning curve, especially in the beginning and also managing my time. I needed to learn several laboratory protocols, handling software, dealing with equipment and balance this with time spent on the computer analysing data and writing.

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<b>What accommodation was provided?</b>	I stayed at the Medical School accommodation – Vanderbilt Hall.
<b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b>	I definitely would recommend doing a research elective to any medical student that has an interest in academia. I found it very interesting and was also able to get a good idea of what laboratory research is like at an early stage.
<b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b>	Yes. The experience has allowed me to take part in academic plastic surgery, which I very much enjoyed.