



**BAPRAS**

British Association of Plastic  
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

## Student Elective Report

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Please return to: [secretariat@bapras.org.uk](mailto: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

<b>Name</b>	Chen Zhang
<b>Medical School</b>	University of Cambridge
<b>Email (optional)</b>	

<b>Country visited</b>	UK
<b>City or town</b>	London
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH)
<b>Dates visited</b>	28/06/2021-16/07/2021
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Mr Neil Bulstrode
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	<p>I was warmly welcomed and integrated into the plastic and reconstructive team at GOSH. My timetable was very flexible and as there were many theatre lists and clinics happening I could choose what I wanted to do. The theatre lists are very varied as there is a large number of consultants each with their own specialist interest. This meant that I was able to observe a large variety of surgeries including multiple stage ear reconstructions, hand surgeries such as pollicisation, syndactyl release operations and cleft and craniofacial surgeries. I was also able to scrub-in and work on my assisting and surgical skills. There is a 8am ward round each day which I joined to follow-up patients after their surgery. Additionally, I found that there was a good integration of general paediatrics in my placement as the surgical team worked closely with general paediatricians for example in cleft MDT clinics.</p>
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	<p>I found lots of the operations really inspiring to watch. The placement really opened my eyes into the intricacies and creativity of paediatric plastics. During the first stage ear reconstruction the surgeon was able to construct a completely 'new' ear using the patient's rib cartilage!</p> <p>The placement also provided exposure into many rare conditions/syndromes which I have not come across before or only read about in textbooks. The doctors were very approachable which meant that I felt comfortable asking questions.</p>
<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	<p>Organising the placement was a little difficult. The elective office at GOSH was very busy which meant that email replies from the elective organiser were delayed. However, they do organise access and provide training for the hospital's computer system at the beginning of the placement which was very useful.</p>

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<b>What accommodation was provided?</b>	N/A
<b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b>	<p>Yes definitely! GOSH is a great place to visit to gain more exposure to paediatric plastics. The team are so welcoming which made the placement a lot more enjoyable.</p> <p>There is also a large cohort of students also partaking in their elective placement with other teams at GOSH which meant that the placement was also very sociable.</p>
<b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b>	Yes.
<b>Which University are you studying at?</b>	University of Cambridge