

Student Elective Report

Name	Connor Barker
Medical School	Newcastle University
Email (optional)	c.barker2@newcastle.ac.uk

Country visited	Canada
City or town	Montreal
Hospital/unit/clinic	McGill University Health Centre
Dates visited	10/06/17 – 6/08/17
Supervising doctor	Dr. Sam Daniel
Contact details of your host:	Rosa Gasparini Rosa.gasparrini@muhc.mcgill.ca

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	During my time in Montreal I focused on head and neck surgery. I took part in clinics, the duties of a junior resident on wards and assisted in theatre. Mornings began most often at or before 07:00 to round on inpatients. Following that, theatre lists started at 07:30 and clinics 09:00. During my time at MUHC I focused on head and neck surgery. I was able to practice skills such as suturing and history taking, that I had learned earlier in my training. Excitingly, I learnt about new techniques such as periosteum anchoring. I was also able to take part in big operations that required intraoperative decision making aided by a 3D printed replica of the patient's skull.
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	My favourite aspect of the elective was the spirit of the team. I was integrated in to the team straight away and given responsibility commensurate with my training and experience. The residents in Montreal work long and hard hours, but to join them fully and gain their respect was very rewarding.
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	Language was an issue sometimes. All of the hospital team are required to be bilingual in French and English. A large majority of patients were also, however there is a population of patients who speak only French. Due to my elementary French language skills, we were unable to do a consultation. I believe that this was not made clear in the application process.
What accommodation was provided?	None, I organised my stay with a local family through a popular website.
Would you recommend this to	Yes. I would recommend the department because of the way that I was

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someone else? (explain if necessary)	integrated in to the team and the skills that I learnt.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes