



BAPRAS

British Association of Plastic
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

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	Ganesh Paul
Medical School	UCL
Email (optional)	

Country visited	UK
City or town	Lancaster
Hospital/unit/clinic	Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Emergency Department
Dates visited	31/05/21 – 02/06/21
Supervising doctor	Dr Duncan Mathew Dr Nina Lakminanth
Contact details of your host:	Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Rd, Lancaster LA1 4RP

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>Due to the global disruption caused by the COVID19 pandemic I was unable to complete my intended elective in the Trauma and Reconstructive Surgery department at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Johannesburg. Instead, I completed an elective at the hospital I would be working at as a Foundation Doctor, the Royal Lancaster Infirmary in my home county of Lancashire.</p> <p>I spent my time in the Emergency Department as I thought it would be a great way for me to practice my core clinical skills while seeing a large variation of presentations across all ages. While being slightly removed from a plastic surgery placement, I was nevertheless able to practice my consultation skills as well as suturing wounds from a variety of locations. I also spent time with the surgical on-call team to see what life as a surgical junior was really like.</p> <p>During my time in ED I was able to get to grips with the IT system and settle into the hospital I will be working in as I complete my foundation training. I found the ED team very friendly and helpful and appreciated that they treated me as junior doctor in the Department rather than a medical student on placement. While on elective I also attended teaching on acute emergencies, completing FAST scans and blood result interpretation.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>The ED team at RLI were very welcoming, friendly and keen to teach. Their kind and empathic approach with patients and each other is something I wish to emulate in my practice.</p> <p>The team knew my intended surgical elective got cancelled and they went out of their way to ensure I had as much surgical exposure as possible while in the Department, even messaging me directly if a patient needed suturing.</p>

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	<p>I also enjoyed the understanding and kind patients that attended the Department, I can't think of any times a patient seemed annoyed or dissatisfied by being seen by a medical student.</p> <p>Overall, my elective has made me very excited to start my Foundation training in Lancaster.</p>
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	<p>I didn't encounter any issues while on elective in Lancaster, most of the issues came in the organisation of the elective. After learning of the cancelation of all international electives by UCL, I decided to complete an elective at RLI. I thought this would be a simple task, seen as I would already be on their system as an incoming doctor. It was not. I took many months to organise which included a lot of emails, telephone calls and online training before I was allowed to start my elective.</p> <p>Although it took much longer than I anticipated I very much enjoyed my elective and believe my elective has put me in good stead for starting as a junior doctor at Lancaster.</p>
What accommodation was provided?	<p>Accommodation was not provided by the hospital, instead I stayed in an AirBnb studio apartment, approximately 10 minutes' walk from the hospital.</p>
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	<p>Yes, I was able to practice clinical skills that will be expected of me as a junior doctor. The time I spent with the surgical on-call team allowed me to appreciate life as a surgical junior on the path to becoming a plastic surgeon.</p>
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	<p>Yes, although my exposure to plastic surgery was minimal, I was able to practice my history and examinations skills as well as suturing. All of which will put me in good stead for a plastic surgery career in the future.</p>
Which University are you studying at?	<p>UCL</p>