

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Harsh Samarendra
<b>Medical School</b>	University of Oxford
<b>Email (optional)</b>	Harsh.samarendra@gmail.com

<b>Country visited</b>	(1) Uganda, (2) Malawi
<b>City or town</b>	(1) Kampala, (2) Blantyre
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	(1) CORSU hospital (plastic surgery department), (2) Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (Burns unit)
<b>Dates visited</b>	4.2.17 – 14.4.17
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	(1) A. Hodges (2) T. Chokotho
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	Uganda: george.galiwango@corsu-hospital.org Malawi: amachonjo@medcol.mw

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	<p>The care of children born with cleft lip and palate was one of the most interesting aspects of my first placement in Kampala. CORSU also plays an important role in treating children with chronic osteomyelitis, which often necessitates long bone resection and free flap reconstruction. Here I spent 3 days a week in theatre (observing more often than assisting) and attended paediatric plastic surgery clinics on Mondays and Fridays.</p> <p>In Blantyre, where I spent time in the Burns unit, I divided my time evenly between the clinics and theatre lists. The clinics were a great platform for revising skin cancer and burn recognition and management, and learning to identify lumps and bumps. The registrar operating list every Friday was the highlight of each week. Laura (the only registrar) and I would be the only ones operating on a busy list that included minor operations such as keloid excisions, debridement and skin grafts for animal bites and burns</p>
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	I learned a lot about achieving proper wound closure, about reconstructing defects and about recognising and assessing pathologies I had never seen before, including many congenital anomalies and syndromes. Additionally, on occasions where I could assist in theatre, I was taught different suturing techniques by the residents, and always had the attention of (and great teaching from) the consultant.
<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	High numbers of trainees and relative pressure to complete long lists meant hands on experience in theatre was limited.

## Student Elective Report

<b>words max)</b>	
<b>What accommodation was provided?</b>	Accommodation as arranged by myself, with recommendations made by both places of work. Both were guesthouses/hostels which cater well to young professionals and students spending weeks to months in Kampala or Blantyre
<b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b>	Yes, although I would recommend doing a mix of specialties e.g plastics and general surgery in a government hospital to maximise the learning opportunities that come with working in a low and middle income setting.
<b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b>	Unchanged – I was already very committed to one, but certainly feel that my ideas about what I might enjoy within it have evolved with experience.