

Student Elective Report

Name	Heather White
Medical School	University of Cambridge
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Country visited	Australia
City or town	Perth
Hospital/unit/clinic	Burns Unit, Fiona Stanley Hospital
Dates visited	26/06/17 – 21/07/17
Supervising doctor	Dr Helen Douglas
Contact details of your host:	Elective Co-ordinator Katherine Edhouse katherine.edhouse@uwa.edu.au

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>Each day I attended the morning ward round, a half-day theatre list and a clinic. I also attended multi-disciplinary team meetings which were held twice weekly, as well as some laser clinics and some teaching sessions.</p> <p>I attended the daily theatre lists and had the opportunity to scrub in to every operation. Whilst scrubbed in I was able to actively assist in the operation and had the opportunity to take a few split-skin grafts. The majority of the operations I saw were on acute burns. Most of the acute surgical management I saw either involved split-skin grafts or 'Spray-on skin' or a combination of both techniques. I also saw some operations on burns scars including Z-plastys and laser treatments.</p> <p>I attended both walk-in clinics and follow-up clinics. During clinics, I was able to see patients myself first then present them to and shadow doctors. In the walk-in clinics I saw a range of different burns at first presentation. The patients I saw in follow-up clinics ranged from a few weeks to several years post injury, and they had been managed in a variety of different ways.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>Everyone in the unit was very welcoming and friendly which helped me to feel like part of the team and have a very enjoyable time.</p> <p>I got to spend a lot of time in theatre (every morning) and got to scrub in to every operation. It was great to have so much hands on experience.</p> <p>I was able to see a wide range of burn injuries and saw patients at a wide variety of stages in their care – I feel like this really helped to give me a well-rounded overview of burns care.</p>

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What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	My elective coincided with another elective student. However, we were both able to get involved and I don't think it negatively impacted on the experience we were able to gain. It was nice to meet and work with another student.
What accommodation was provided?	None was provided. I used Airbnb to find accommodation which was reasonably priced and in a convenient location.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes! It was an amazing experience.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes! This was my first plastic surgery placement, so whilst I want to gain more experience in other aspects of the specialty, this experience has made me keen to pursue my interest in plastic surgery as a career.