

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Heather White
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<b>Country visited</b>	Australia
<b>City or town</b>	Perth
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Trauma Service, Royal Perth Hospital
<b>Dates visited</b>	24/07/17 – 11/08/17
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Mr Sudhakar Rao
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	Elective Co-ordinator Katherine Edhouse katherine.edhouse@uwa.edu.au

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	I spent the majority of my time on the ward – attending ward rounds, talking to patients, taking bloods/cannulating and shadowing juniors (for example when they were completing tertiary surveys). I also attended trauma calls with the trauma team in the emergency department. I was encouraged, where appropriate, to get involved during trauma calls for example helping to perform secondary surveys and scribing. The majority of the trauma patients I encountered on the wards and in ED had been involved in road traffic collisions, although there were also patients who had fallen, been assaulted or self-harmed. I saw a range of different injuries that involved input from general surgeons, orthopaedics, spinal, plastics, neurosurgery and maxfax. I followed a number of patients to theatre, where I had the opportunity to scrub in, mainly with the trauma surgeons but I also saw one plastics case.
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	I had the opportunity to gain experience of initial assessment, investigations and management involved in caring for trauma patients on admission. I became familiar with primary, secondary and tertiary surveys and was able to get involved performing these. I also saw a wide variety of different injuries (covering many of the different surgical specialities) and got to follow these patients up over time. I feel that this experience has helped to give me a good grounding in how to assess and manage high acuity surgical patients.  It was interesting to see a different healthcare structure - with a dedicated trauma team who were responsible for attending trauma calls and cared for the patients on a dedicated trauma ward.
<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	Due to the intrinsic nature of trauma the number of acute trauma admissions varied massively. Sometimes there was a run of trauma calls and I would spend all evening in the emergency department. At

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	<p>other times I could spend a lot of time of the ward with not that much to do. Coming in at evenings and weekends helped but didn't solve the problem.</p> <p>I had less theatre time than I was hoping for. The trauma team (who I was placed with) operated relatively little and had no regular theatre lists. I had been hoping to see a variety of operations with different surgical specialities, including plastics, however this was more difficult to organise than I anticipated.</p>
<b>What accommodation was provided?</b>	None was provided. I used Airbnb to find accommodation which was reasonably priced and a convenient location for both of my placements.
<b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b>	I would recommend this placement, dependant on what they were looking for from the placement. I learnt a lot of useful knowledge and skills from this placement but there was relatively little time in theatre.
<b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b>	I didn't see enough plastic surgery during this placement for it to have a significant effect on my career aspirations. However the plastic surgery experience I did have I found incredibly interesting.