

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Joanna Lau
<b>Medical School</b>	Oxford
<b>Email (optional)</b>	

<b>Country visited</b>	Belize
<b>City or town</b>	Dangriga
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Southern Regional Hospital
<b>Dates visited</b>	6/2/17 – 6/3/17
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Dr Jonelle Kuylen
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	<a href="mailto:jonelle.kuylen@hotmail.com">jonelle.kuylen@hotmail.com</a>

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	<p>The hospital has General Medical, General Surgical, Paediatric, and O&amp;G wards, two operating theatres, an emergency department, and an outpatient clinic. I spent most of my time in ED and theatres.</p> <p>There were many patients who presented to ED with minor trauma. Memorably, there was a man who presented with ragged, contaminated wounds across his brow and cheek, having been in a fight - the weapon which had caused the damage was a conch. Another patient, the three year-old son of a cabinet-maker, caught his index finger in a jointer. Both of these injuries were managed exclusively in ED. I was able to observe, and later carry out, the management of such injuries.</p> <p>The two procedures I observed most often were C-sections and amputations. Often the amputations were minor, with just a toe or two being removed; however I did observe a more extensive amputation. The patient was in her nineties, with diabetes and dry gangrene extending to mid-shin. The below knee amputation was carried out by the general surgeon, who explained the need to consider the flap before touching knife to skin, in case of cutting too far proximally. This gives a shorter flap under greater tension, impeding healing.</p>
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	The opportunity to practise suturing, including suturing slightly more complex wounds, was one of the best things about the visit. Also, the members of staff are friendly, welcoming, and willing to teach.
<b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b>	The number of patients arriving in ED or scheduled for operation varied considerably, so that some days felt much more productive and interesting than others. Specifically thinking about plastic surgery

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	opportunities, more severe cases were sent to the larger centres in Belmopan or Belize City.
<b>What accommodation was provided?</b>	None provided
<b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b>	I very much enjoyed this placement as a whole and would recommend it as an enjoyable and interesting experience, which is as immersive as you choose it to be. However, for those interested specifically in gaining more experience of plastic surgery, I believe a placement in a larger centre might have provided more opportunities for me to further my skills and observe more complicated cases.
<b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b>	Having now managed minor trauma myself, I feel more encouraged to look for training opportunities in plastic surgery. Many thanks to BAPRAS for their support in gaining this experience.