

Student Elective Report

Name	Katherine Wensley
Medical School	University of Oxford
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Country visited	Australia
City or town	Melbourne
Hospital/unit/clinic	St. Vincent's Public Hospital
Dates visited	March – April 2017
Supervising doctor	Mr. Tim Bennett
Contact details of your host:	parsonsa@unimelb.edu.au

<p>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</p>	<p>Cases at St. Vincent's Hospital ranged from finger replants to free flaps for complex sarcoma reconstructions to breast reconstructions to simple carpal tunnel decompressions.</p> <p>I attended ward rounds every day, a range of clinics, MDT and audit meetings as well as spending much time in theatres. I was frequently able to act as first assistant in theatres and towards the end of my placement I was allowed to perform parts of procedures supervised.</p> <p>I learnt to manage free flaps on the ward, harvest FTSGs myself and apply backslabs. I improved my confidence performing much suturing and learnt to close both deep and superficial wounds using a variety of techniques.</p> <p>At the final departmental audit, I presented a case and literature review on the use of medial femoral condyle vascularised bone graft flaps to treat scaphoid non-union.</p>
<p>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</p>	<p>The practical experience in a developed world healthcare system was invaluable. Having an extended period of time to dedicate to plastic & reconstructive surgery meant I was fully immersed within the team and was given opportunities I might not otherwise have had.</p> <p>The 'hands-on' experience was a highlight of my visit as well as the chance to follow up patients in clinic a month after their surgery and see their progress. In contrast to my other elective placement I was taught about and saw surgical techniques at the forefront of modern plastic & reconstructive surgery, for example, the use of synthetic biodegradable temporizing matrix as a dermal scaffold.</p>

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What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	I did not encounter any problems on this placement.
What accommodation was provided?	Yes
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Absolutely
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes