

Student Elective Report

Name	Lynsey Williams
Medical School	St George's, University of London
Email (optional)	

Country visited	Taiwan and UK
City or town	Taoyuan/ Taipei (Taiwan) and East Grinstead (UK)
Hospital/unit/clinic	Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (Taiwan), and Queen Victoria Hospital (UK)
Dates visited	30/04/18- 19/06/18
Supervising doctor	Professor Fu-Chan Wei (Taiwan) and Mr Dheansa (UK)
Contact details of your host:	

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>East Grinstead was a great unit to visit, as they are a specialist hospital, and had many interesting clinics and theatre lists every day. They allowed me to direct my own learning, and whilst I was primarily attached to burns, I also saw a lot of microsurgery, and skin/ hand cases. I was offered teaching from my consultants, and also had the opportunity to get involved in research.</p> <p>Taiwan was a fantastic new experience of a foreign healthcare system. I was really excited to explore the country, as I'd never been to Asia before. Chang Gung is a very large hospital, which is well-known for microsurgical training and has a lot of free-flap breast and head and neck reconstructions. Whilst I really enjoyed being in theatre, I also attended clinics, and although I don't speak Mandarin, the fellows and consultants translated for me. I also had time to travel around the island and do some sightseeing.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>Being given the opportunity to spend 6 weeks just focussing on something I really enjoy was fantastic. I was able to speak to and examine plastic surgery patients both pre and post-operatively, I scrubbed in for and assisted with plastics cases daily, and I definitely improved my surgical skills.</p>
What problems did	

Student Elective Report

you encounter? (120 words max)	The application process for Taiwanese hospitals can be quite long, so start early! Many Taiwanese hospitals also ask for several immunisations and blood test reports (outside of the usual NHS occupational health screening) so be aware that you will probably have to pay privately for these. Also be aware that Taiwan is very seismically active- I was surprised to experience an earthquake during my elective, as well as really torrential tropical storms.
What accommodation was provided?	In the UK I commuted from my usual university accommodation, and in Taiwan I stayed in the halls of residence, which is attached to the Hospital. It was very affordable, and was a good opportunity to meet Taiwanese medical students and visiting doctors on fellowships.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Definitely. I feel like the elective provided me with a broad range of experiences in plastic surgery, and has made me more confident in managing the surgical patient. I'm also really looking forward to my plastics FY1 job.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Absolutely. I knew that I enjoyed plastics before the elective, and this has confirmed that it's definitely something I'd like to try and pursue as a career. I'm grateful to BAPRAS for providing me with this elective bursary, and to my supervisors for their teaching throughout the elective.