



**BAPRAS**

British Association of Plastic  
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

## Student Elective Report

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| <b>Name</b>             | Oliver John Smith  |
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| <b>Country visited</b>               | UK and Barbados  |
| <b>City or town</b>                  | Manchester and Bridgetown  |
| <b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>          | University Hospital of South Manchester and Queen Elizabeth Hospital               |
| <b>Dates visited</b>                 | 18/3/13 - 17/5/13  |
| <b>Supervising doctor</b>            | Professor DA McGrouther  |
| <b>Contact details of your host:</b> | <a href="mailto:d.a.mcgrouter@manchester.ac.uk">d.a.mcgrouter@manchester.ac.uk</a> |

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| <b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b> | <p>Manchester: I attended morning ward rounds and trauma meetings and I spent time with the on call team seeing hand trauma patients in A&amp;E. I attended clinics and saw some patients on my own, doing a full history and examination. In the scar clinics I collected data for my study on the natural history of keloid scars. I spent the majority of my time in theatre observing and assisting in both elective and trauma cases. The majority of surgical cases I attended was hand surgery however I also saw paediatric cases, ear reconstruction, scrotum reconstruction, gender reassignment surgery, breast and skin malignancy. My supervisor and the registrars taught me and helped me perform various surgical skills under their supervision including various types of suturing, nerve repair, tendon repair, dressing wounds, plaster casting upper limbs, washout of dirty wounds.</p> <p>Barbados: I attended morning ward rounds and general plastics clinics which saw a huge variety in the type of cases many of which I hadn't had previous experience with. These included: skin and breast malignancy, burns, craniofacial and maxillofacial, oculoplastic, scars, hydradenitis. Through these clinics I was able to see keloid patients and gather data for my study. I also spent time in theatre observing these cases. I spent time in the private clinic seeing cosmetic surgery patients as well as patients for minor surgery.</p> |
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| <p><b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b></p>                                | <p>Manchester: I was able to see patients at the point of entry to the hospital through surgery and the postoperative period and then at followup in clinic. This gave me a much better understanding of the overall care of a plastic surgery patient. I was also able to practice my surgical skills and learn some new skills such as microsurgery and wound care.</p> <p>Barbados: I got to experience surgery in a less developed setting which has given me broad experience on which to forge my future surgical career. I was able to experience cases which I'd had no previous exposure to including craniofacial and burns.</p> <p>Both placements have given me a very broad experience of plastic surgery, seeing a wide variety of cases from across the speciality and improving my surgical skills and overall skills as a doctor.</p> |
| <p><b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b></p>  | <p>Manchester: My supervisor only worked in the hospital 2.5 days a week and therefore the rest of the time was spent in theatres with other consultants and registrars who were willing to have me. However this actually worked to my advantage as it gave me a broader experience allowing me to see a greater variety of cases and learn from a wide range of people.</p> <p>Barbados: I wasn't able to scrub during surgery and therefore not as able to get as involved as I would have liked, however I made sure I asked lots of questions during the procedure and asked the consultant to go through any queries at the end.</p>   |
| <p><b>What accommodation was provided?</b></p>  | <p>I stayed with a large group of other elective students with a local lady in her house near Bridgetown. I had my own double room (although not air conditioned). This was self arranged through contacts provided by friends who had stayed there previously (contact details at the bottom of the page).</p>  |
| <p><b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b></p>                          | <p>I would definitely recommend both placements. I was able to collect a large amount of data for my keloid scar study from both venues and anyone thinking of doing a joint study should consider both as they were very accommodating and helpful with assisting me. I would also very much recommend splitting an elective between two venues as it gives a very broad experience of the specialty and I picked up lots of different knowledge and skills from each place.</p>  |
| <p><b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b></p> | <p>Absolutely. Through previous placements I've always known I've wanted to pursue a career in plastic surgery however this elective has made my desire even greater. Through my keloid study I have seen how plastic surgeons can make a huge impact on people's quality of life by treating such a disfiguring and debilitating disease. I've also seen how the specialty is constantly developing with new research and technologies and this really appeals to the scientist and academic in me. Also what has really attracted me was the sheer variety in the day to day caseload I experienced and how no day is the same. I also thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the nerve repair and microsurgery I did as well as the many other surgical techniques I was able to practice and learn.</p>   |
| <p><b>Contact details of your host:</b></p>   | <p>Angela Giles<br/> <a href="mailto:anjolis@hotmail.com">anjolis@hotmail.com</a><br/>         69, 5th Avenue, Rendezvous Gardens, Christ Church, Barbados</p>   |