

Student Elective Report

Name	Stacey Law
Medical School	University of Nottingham
Email (optional)	Stacey.law@nhs.net

Country visited	New Zealand
City or town	Auckland
Hospital/unit/clinic	Middlemore Hospital
Dates visited	01/05/17 – 09/06/17
Supervising doctor	Mr Amber Moazzam
Contact details of your host:	Philippa Elgar p.elgar@auckland.ac.nz

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>Middlemore hospital is the main centre for plastic surgery in New Zealand and serves the Auckland region as well as taking complex cases from elsewhere in New Zealand and the surrounding islands such as Tonga, even as far as Tahiti.</p> <p>During the six week placement I rotated to a different team every week, each with its own bias towards a different speciality – this included burns, breast reconstruction, craniofacial, paediatric, skin cancer and hands/trauma. There were opportunities to spend time in theatre, clinics, ED and on wards and I was able to attend the team's weekly teaching sessions. I was encouraged to spend time in the areas I found most interesting, and despite being attached to a team I was free to move between teams and theatres depending what interesting cases were on. I also completed a research project whilst I was there and was encouraged to present my work at the department's biannual research meeting. I was also able to spend some time at Auckland City Hospital when there were paediatric cases taking place.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>The team were extremely welcoming and enthusiastic about me getting involved and gaining the most I could from the placement. The days were long but very rewarding. I was always encouraged to scrub in and assist in theatre; both major and minor cases, and all of the clinicians were happy to teach during theatre sessions. My supervisor was integral in helping me complete a research project and was very supportive and encouraging throughout. I was definitely made to feel a part of the team and I feel I gained valuable experience of what working in a busy plastic surgery department is like. New Zealand is also a fantastic country to visit for the beaches, surfing, wildlife and cultural experiences.</p>

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What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	I didnt really encounter any problems. I was staying in West Auckland and had a car – but I can imagine getting to Middlemore from Auckland without a car might be difficult as it is a little way out of the city.
What accommodation was provided?	No accommodation provided.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes definitely! Even though it was a busy placement I thoroughly enjoyed it and felt lucky to have had such a worthwhile experience. If you are interested in plastic surgery and want the opportunity to gain a lot of hands on experience in a large and advanced centre then this is a good option, especially if you also want to complete a research project as I felt this was really encouraged.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes – I gained a solid understanding of different sub-specialities within plastics and this has broadened my interest.