



BAPRAS

British Association of Plastic
Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons

Student Elective Report

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Please return to: secretariat@bapras.org.uk

Please complete this report form as honestly as possible so that others considering an elective may benefit from your experience. If you visited more than one place, please complete separate forms for each. Please bear in mind that we will be posting this report on our website for others to read.

Student Elective Report

Name	Suliman Ali
Medical School	Imperial College London
Email (optional)	Suliman.gondal@gmail.com

Country visited	U.K
City or town	London
Hospital/unit/clinic	Charing Cross Hospital
Dates visited	26/04/21-28/05/21
Supervising doctor	Mr Jonathan Dunne
Contact details of your host:	Need to apply via imperial.electives@nhs.net

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	Given COVID I was unable to do a clinical elective and so had to do a research elective. During my elective I was primarily working on a project that was looking at how good Genetic Expression Profiling is in indicating the prognosis of melanomas and how useful it is for doctors to use in the clinical environment. To carry out this research I read various articles from scientific journals regarding this topic to make me familiar with subject. Then I had to extract key information from all these articles and to choose the most relevant information that I would include in my literature review as I had a word limit of 1,000 words and write my research up to be ready to submit for publication.
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	During this elective placement I gained valuable research skills. This includes analysing scientific papers in journals quickly to gain and understanding of what it is about and to be able to extract the relevant information that I could use in my research essay. In addition, I learnt about the different forms of research and what a systematic review entails. From using a PRISMA diagram and from your keywords, to putting them in pubmed and then doing a title, abstract and whole text review. I think this will be useful in the future if I have to do a systematic literature review (which I plan to do).

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What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	I struggled with structuring my research and what to include in it from all the information I gathered, as in the past I've just been told the structure and what to write about in each paragraph. However, this time around my supervisor told me to have a go and then give it to him too check, which I did and helped me learn about how to decide between what information is relevant and what is not adding anything to your research. I also found writing scientifically to be a challenge. My supervisor explained that this isn't easy and comes with time but reading more articles helps and gave me some hints on how to make my writing style more scientific.
What accommodation was provided?	None is provided for you, but Imperial does have halls of residence or NHS accommodation called Parsons House near the hospital which you can apply for.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	I definitely would recommend this elective given the current climate as it means even though you're not in clinical practice or theatre you are still learning valuable skills which you can take with you in the future, no matter what career you choose.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Yes, I am more likely to choose a career in Plastic Surgery and this elective has given me an insight into the academia part of this speciality; which before I didn't have much insight on. It also has shown me different career paths in plastic surgery such as going into academia via an ACF route.
Which University are you studying at?	Imperial College London