

## Student Elective Report

<b>Name</b>	Toby Noton
<b>Medical School</b>	University of Southampton
<b>Email (optional)</b>	

<b>Country visited</b>	Singapore
<b>City or town</b>	Singapore
<b>Hospital/unit/clinic</b>	Singapore General Hospital
<b>Dates visited</b>	9/4/18 - 4/5/18
<b>Supervising doctor</b>	Prof Tan Bien Keem (Associate Professor and clinical lead of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery)
<b>Contact details of your host:</b>	

<b>Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)</b>	<p>On arrival at Singapore General Hospital, it was easy to see the immediate difference to hospitals in the UK. Whether it be the extravagant gardens scattered throughout the hospital buildings, or the sheer number of staff frequenting the hospital corridors, it felt worlds away from hospitals in the western world.</p> <p>I was given a comprehensive timetable on my first day at the hospital. This included a mixture of theatre sessions and clinics in various sub-specialities within the department. The timetable wasn't set in stone and we were able alter it depending on our interests.</p> <p>The main difference when comparing plastic surgery in Singapore to that in the UK is the scope of practice. The hospital is home to one of the largest burns units in South East Asia and patients are referred from across the region - including Malaysia and Indonesia. Maxillofacial and breast patients are solely dealt with by the plastic surgeons in Singapore, which ensured my experience was both varied and stimulating in terms of the cases I witnessed during my 4-weeks in Singapore.</p> <p>There was also ample opportunity to assist in theatre, with all the professors, consultants and junior doctors willing to teach and take you under their wing.</p>
<b>What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)</b>	<p>The healthcare system in Singapore is one of the best in the world. Singapore operates a means-tested healthcare system, whereby every Singaporean contributes a proportion of their salary to the health</p>

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	<p>system. Then when they need to use any health services, they pay a fee based on their income. This system obviously works, and maybe the UK government could learn some things from their system! This is testament to the fact that Singapore has one of the longest life expectancies.</p> <p>In addition to the fantastic clinical experiences I had in the hospital. It was also a great chance to explore the diverse cultural side of Singapore and the amazing food! Singapore also acts as the perfect stepping-stone to explore South East Asia.</p>
<p><b>What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)</b></p>	<p>The main problem I encountered was during my time in clinics. Most elderly Singaporeans didn't speak a word of English - although it being one of the official languages of Singapore. Other than this, my elective placement was perfect.</p>
<p><b>What accommodation was provided?</b></p>	<p>No accommodation was provided by the hospital. I arranged to stay in an Airbnb near the hospital. You can book university accommodation if you wish, as there are a couple of universities linked with Singapore General Hospital. Wherever you stay in Singapore, it'll be within easy reach of the Hospital as public transport in Singapore is amazing.</p>
<p><b>Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)</b></p>	<p>Definitely! Singapore General Hospital is a largest hospital in Singapore and is a world-leading tertiary referral central for almost all specialties. It's a pretty full on elective placement compared to most other countries, and they have an expectation that you'll be in the hospital 9-5pm Monday to Friday.</p>
<p><b>Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?</b></p>	<p>For sure. It's definitely reinforced my desire to persue a career in plastic surgery. I would also like to return to Singapore at some point during my training.</p>