

Student Elective Report

Name	James Moorby
Medical School	Hull-York Medical School
Email (optional)	

Country visited	Australia
City or town	Perth
Hospital/unit/clinic	Royal Perth Hospital Department of Plastic, Reconstructive, Maxillofacial and Hand Surgery
Dates visited	14/07/2019 to 26/08/2019
Supervising doctor	Mr Jeremy Rawlins FRCS(Plast) FRACS(Plast) Consultant in Burns & Plastic, Reconstructive, Aesthetic Surgery President, Australian & New Zealand Burn Association
Contact details of your host:	University of Western Australia Elective Coordinator

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>During my elective I attended the plastics clinic on Mondays and plastics theatre from Tuesdays to Fridays.</p> <p>In plastics clinic I shadowed Mr Rawlins and many other members of the plastics team as they took histories from newly presenting patients, as well as those who had been referred or were attending for a review following past treatment. I also took the opportunity to get involved and took many histories from newly presenting patients, which was a great opportunity to gain some independent clinical experience. The patients attending the clinics provided me with experience of a great array of plastics related presentations, including skin cancers, traumatic injuries often involving the hand, and there were many review appointments for patients who had undergone complex procedures such as free flaps and tissue transfers.</p> <p>In plastics theatres I was fortunate to observe and assist in a great variety of procedures, including debridement and washout of wounds, reduction and fixation of fractures of the hand, excision of skin lesions, tendon repairs and transfers, skin grafts, and also a range of flaps. These included a gracilis flap, deep inferior epigastric perforator flap, anterolateral thigh flap, gastrocnemius flap, temporalis turnover flap and more. My experience in theatres was great and I feel it has given me a thorough introduction to basic surgical skills and the functioning of a surgical team.</p>
What were the best	I'm not sugar-coating this report when I say that every member of the

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things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>plastics team was very welcoming and were keen to get me involved in every aspect of patient care, with Mr Rawlins in particular showing an infectious enthusiasm for the specialty.</p> <p>I gained plenty of surgical experience with the time I had, being able to scrub in for practically every case in theatre. I was also able to practice multiple surgical skills frequently such as suturing, harvesting of split-thickness skin grafts with a dermatome, and also applying dressings and assisting in applying plaster of Paris.</p> <p>I also particularly enjoyed the friendliness of the entire team, especially in theatres where they had great humour and an excellent team culture!</p>
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	<p>I didn't actually encounter any particular issues during my elective. I was possibly a tad hesitant in getting involved during the first day or two of the elective, which is to be expected when joining a new team of strangers! I did however soon find myself getting stuck into all the work that was available for me to do.</p> <p>My advice to other students going on their elective would be to not fear showing your enthusiasm for the specialty as this will spur the team to involve you, and always ask questions, as there is never a stupid question.</p>
What accommodation was provided?	<p>I organised my own accommodation through AirBnB. I stayed in the suburb of Carlisle which was only a 20-minute bus journey to the hospital. Perth generally has good public transport and so you should find no difficulty in getting around by bus or train.</p>
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	<p>I would highly recommend Perth as an elective destination for any student. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and have come away with a fantastic experience of what a career in plastic surgery has to offer. Also, I organised my elective through the University of Western Australia, who were very happy to refer me onto their welcoming rugby team which really put the icing on the cake. And so, if you're keen on any sports just ask and you'll be put in touch with the right people!</p> <p>There are also a range of other things for you to do during the downtime, such as a visit by ferry to the quokka infested Rottnest island, trips to the beach, and plenty of excellent hikes nearby to the city.</p>
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	<p>For me, this elective was a golden opportunity see if a career in plastic surgery really is for me, and having thrown myself into the placement and seen what amazing outcomes patients can have from the plastics armamentarium, I've come away with the determination to pursue this specialty. In particular I've found hand surgery to be incredibly interesting as a subspecialty, with its complex nature and the great rewards of returning form and function to one of the most important parts of the body!</p>