

Student Elective Report

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Medical School	

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	using intraoperative nerve mapping. Finally, Brazil had a lot to offer in terms of awe-inspiring culture and outstanding scenery. The elective gave me an opportunity to practise my photography, a hobby which I am passionate about.
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	Originally, we found it very difficult to contact many of the hospitals in South America due to the language barrier. However, once we were in contact with Dr Chia, the whole process of setting up the elective was very smooth. The language barrier was again troublesome when interacting with the patients as many of them only spoke Portuguese. However, as most of my time was spent in theatre, this was not a huge issue.
What accommodation was provided?	Although accommodation wasn't directly provided through the hospital, we were able to find a large variety of high-quality accommodation on Airbnb in convenient locations. There was no payment made to the hospital and this was a big bonus considering that a lot of elective placements can be quite expensive.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	I would very much recommend this placement for future medical students with an interest in plastic surgery. The ability to see such a wide variety of surgery within different hospitals is a very rewarding and intellectually stimulating experience. Furthermore, my supervisor made me feel very welcome in a new country that is drastically different to the UK.
Are you more likely to choose a career in plastic surgery as a result of this experience?	Carrying out a plastics-themed elective has opened my eyes to a specialty that has such a wide scope of practice. I look forward to getting involved with the plastics department at my local hospital to further explore plastic surgery as a career.
Which University are you studying at?	University of Birmingham