



Edinburgh University Student Elective Report

Country visited	South Africa
City or town	Johannesburg
Hospital/unit/clinic	Trauma Unit, Johannesburg General Hospital
Dates visited (length)	16 th Jan 09- 13 th Mar 09 (4 weeks)
Supervising doctor	Sister Shabeena Reddy, no supervising doctor. New person in post now, do not know who
Contact details of your host:	Reith Hall at Wits Education Campus, JHB. Contact via the Univeristy of the Witwatersrand electives coordinator Dawn Francis
Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>Minimum expected attendance 3 shifts/week, in reality as much as you like.</p> <p>During daytime there are many orthopaedic trauma cases and doctors are happy to teach you to put on casts. There is often suturing to be done, and teaching is available if you want it.</p> <p>Most violent trauma and serious RTAs happen at night. You can learn to do chest drains, central lines, and many catheterisations, suturing, ABGs, cannulae and more suturing!</p> <p>You participate in the resus and can take the role of one of the docs if needed.</p> <p>There may be many other elective students on the unit at the time so negotiation is needed.</p> <p>You can go to any theatre you like and scrubbing in is also an option.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (150 words max]	The doctors appreciate your presence and it is great for building practical skills and confidence. It is also a good place to learn about decision making and get over your nerves if you need to resuscitate in the UK.
What problems did you encounter? (150 words max)	The university organises all the electives and the fees are very high. If you go, do not pay too far in advance as they may increase the fees later then try to charge you the difference. This happened to a friend of mine. Keep absolutely all correspondence and receipts!

	<p>friend of mine- keep absolutely all correspondence and receipts!</p> <p>Renting a car is a good idea as JHB's violence tends to preclude walking in most areas around the hospital.</p> <p>Follow local advice on dangerous areas.</p> <p>Assume HIV to be 100% (it virtually is), take safety goggles with you, and ALWAYS wear them or a visor. Patients will cough on you and the ARVs are nasty. Also beware the suture packs and broken ribs as potential sources of sharps injuries- the nurses are sadly not careful about needles!</p>
What accommodation was provided?	University halls of residence or a lists of private contacts who rent a room of their house to students.
Would you recommend this to someone else? (explain if necessary)	Yes, but apply >18 months in advance to be sure to get a trauma place.
Details of any funding you received:	
Your name:	Rebecca Halas
Contact email: (optional)	rebecca_halas@yahoo.co.uk
Category of Elective (delete as appropriate)	Cardiothoracic Surgery Ent Surgery General Surgery Obstetrics and gynaecology Orthopaedic Surgery Neurosurgery Plastic Surgery/ Maxillofacial Surgery Urology Vascular Surgery Other

Many thanks for filling out this form. It will be uploaded in pdf form on the Society's website.

James Blackmur
 ESSS Publicity Officer
 On behalf of the ESSS Committee

Bernard Roberston
 ESSS Vice President

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