

## **My Placement in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough**

“A unique and once in a life time opportunity. I encourage anyone with an interest in cardiothoracic surgery to organise a placement with Mr Ferguson at James Cook”

<b>Organisation</b>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	<b>Teaching</b>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
<b>Surgical Exposure</b>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	<b>Hands on Experience</b>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
<b>Hospitality</b>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★	<b>Accommodation</b>	★ ★ ★ ★
<b>Overall Experience</b>	★ ★ ★ ★ ★		

I spent my 3 week SSC with the cardiothoracic department at the James Cook University Hospital, under the supervision of Mr Jonathan Ferguson. The placement was well organised from start to finish. I was put in touch with the undergraduate coordinator who was very quick and helpful organising my paper work and accommodation. The placement itself was well thought out and the timetable was made to suit me. I wanted to spend my time in theatre, to improve my skills and increase my surgical exposure. Mr Ferguson arranged with the other consultants for me to have free reign of theatres, to pick and choose which cases I wanted to see; with the aim for me to perform saphenous vein harvests, thoracotomies and sternotomies. Mr Ferguson was incredibly supportive throughout the 3 weeks organising and ensuring I had the surgical experience I wanted. I met all my aims and then some, with opportunity to scrub in everyday, amounting to a lot of hands on experience. All the staff were extremely welcoming and I quickly felt part of the team. Everyone was happy to have me in their theatres and the consultants, registrars, SCPs and anaesthetists were more than willing to teach me. I learnt so much about the procedures, anatomy and physiology post-operative care and I now feel confident with CT scans, x-rays and angiograms. This attachment has been the best placement I have had during my time at medical school; a unique and once in a life time opportunity. I encourage anyone with an interest in cardiothoracic surgery to organise a placement with Mr Ferguson at James Cook.

**Charlotte Holmes**  
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