

Laura Hewitt, STP Clinical Biochemistry at UCLH, 2011 intake  
Elective Summary  
Placement in Blood Sciences, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

For my elective I spent 5 weeks in a district general hospital Blood Sciences laboratory. My training post was based in the clinical biochemistry department of a large teaching hospital laboratory, and I wanted to use the few weeks dedicated to my elective as an opportunity to gain some really useful and relevant experience in a DGH lab.

This was a relatively easy elective to organise – I thought about which Trust I'd like to go to and discussed plans with my supervisor, who then got in touch with the consultant biochemist at East and North Herts.

I found my elective incredibly valuable and enjoyable. I gained some very useful insight into the way a Blood Sciences lab in a DGH worked, and got to experience many things I wouldn't otherwise have had chance to see. I also had the chance to contribute to my host lab by conducting an audit and process mapping the urgent sample pathway for critical biochemistry and haematology, and I found this particularly rewarding. I was able to present this work at a Trust clinical governance meeting and produce a poster for the ACB National Audit meeting, which was great experience and also great for my CV!