

Argentina

Bolivia

Cambodia

China

Ethiopia

Ghana

India

Jamaica

Mexico

Moldova

Mongolia

Nepal

Peru

Senegal

South Africa

Sri Lanka

Thailand

*help...  
learn...  
explore!*

**MEDICINE &  
HEALTHCARE**

 [www.projects-abroad.co.uk](http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)1903 708300

## ➔ Introduction

**P**rojects Abroad offers you the chance to take part in one of our tailor-made Medicine & Healthcare projects in the developing world.

Whether you are a trained professional, currently a student, or somebody who is looking to get some experience in this field, we will find you the perfect Medicine, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Nursing, Midwifery or Occupational Therapy placement.

We have been organising successful volunteering placements since 1992, making us the most experienced organisation in our field. We provide placements which give you a unique view of Medicine & Healthcare provision in your destination country, as well as a rich cultural experience outside of your work.

Destination	Medicine	Physiotherapy	Dentistry	Nursing	Midwifery	Occupational Therapy
Argentina	Latin America and the Caribbean					
Bolivia	Latin America and the Caribbean					
Cambodia	Asia					
China	Asia		Asia			
Ethiopia		Africa				
Ghana	Africa	Africa	Africa	Africa	Africa	
India	Asia	Asia	Asia	Asia	Asia	
Jamaica	Latin America and the Caribbean					
Mexico	Latin America and the Caribbean					
Moldova	Eastern Europe	Eastern Europe				Eastern Europe
Mongolia	Asia	Asia		Asia	Asia	
Nepal	Asia	Asia				
Peru	Latin America and the Caribbean		Latin America and the Caribbean			
Senegal	Africa			Africa	Africa	
South Africa						Africa
Sri Lanka	Asia	Asia		Asia	Asia	
Thailand		Asia				Asia

**Key:** Africa (Pink), Asia (Teal), Eastern Europe (Yellow), Latin America and the Caribbean (Light Green)

**2-Week Medicine Specials for 16-19 year olds** – although our normal projects have no set start dates and duration, we also run 2 week projects over set dates in the summer. Please contact us on 01903 708 300 for the start dates.

## ➔ What is included?

### YOUR PLACEMENT

You can choose to work in Medicine, Physiotherapy, Dentistry, Nursing, Midwifery or Occupational Therapy, in one of our destinations. We will then work with you to find exactly which of our placements is best suited to your needs. When you arrive at work you will be given a placement supervisor who is a qualified professional and who will help you through all aspects of your placement.

### YOUR OWN START-DATE AND PROJECT-LENGTH

You choose when you want to go, and how many months you wish to work. This applies to all projects except for the 2-Week Medicine and Physiotherapy Specials for 16-19 year olds which operate on set dates only.

### YOUR ACCOMMODATION

You will usually live with a local host family, who have been carefully selected because they are friendly, welcoming and can provide you with safe and secure accommodation for the duration of your stay.

### ALL YOUR MEALS

We will ensure that you are provided with three meals a day, including either a packed lunch or lunch in the hospital canteen when you are working.

### INSURANCE

Our package includes comprehensive insurance, which includes travel, medical and liability insurance, for the duration of your time away with us.

### COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL SUPPORT

We directly employ sizeable staff teams in all of our destination countries, and they are responsible for ensuring that all aspects of your project run as smoothly as possible. From the moment they meet you at the airport they will be available to show you around the local area, introduce you to your host family and placement supervisor, and be on-call 24/7 if you have any problems.

### SOCIAL LIFE

It's nice to have other people to share your experiences with. Thanks to the large number of volunteers we work with in each destination you can be sure that there will always be someone for you to meet up with, go out with and possibly even travel with when your project finishes.



## MEDICINE



Depending on the destination that you choose, you are likely to see a huge gulf in the standard of medical provision compared to what you are used to back home. In some of the areas that we work the hospitals are very poorly resourced and the staff are likely to be both overworked and underpaid. Be prepared for some unusual and - on occasion - quite shocking medical conditions; a lack of public medical awareness combined with a reluctance or inability to pay for treatment means that patients tend to present with significantly more advanced cases than is common in the developed world.

We often get asked about how much “hands-on” experience a person can expect. The simple answer is that this will be closely tied to how much medical training you have had, although what most people find is that they are able to gain a far broader experience than they would expect volunteering in a hospital or clinic in the UK.

If you are a pre-university volunteer, your project will probably involve a more general view of medicine and you are likely to have a more observational role. With the recent widening of access to medical education, the process of applying to medical school has become even more competitive, and people are increasingly seeing the value of gaining this kind of medical experience with us, when it comes to writing their UCAS applications and facing university interview panels.

With the shortfall in training places combined with the new European Working Time Directive, experience is also at a premium for medical students and graduates. Thanks to the wide variety of placements we have available, we are usually able to tailor the project to the particular area of medicine that you wish to work in. Your level of involvement will depend on the relationship that you develop with the doctors you are working with.



## PHYSIOTHERAPY

Due to a lack of adequate resources and appropriate expertise, rehabilitation can often be overlooked in developing countries, which is exactly why our physiotherapy volunteers are so valued. The work can be tough; you will often find yourself working with people whose injuries or conditions have effectively led to their exclusion from society, like in the Burns Clinic in Bolivia, or the Leprosy Mission in India. However, at the same time there's no doubt that it is also incredibly rewarding.

If you are new to physiotherapy, but hoping to secure a place on a university course then this is the closest possible thing to a golden ticket! We can find you a placement where you will work with a trained professional who you will learn from, as you shadow them.

If you are a training or qualified physiotherapist then you can work more closely with patients, and may even be given a caseload of your own, depending on the situation. We appreciate the problems that physiotherapists are encountering in the labour market at the present time, and are doing what we can to ensure that our physiotherapy volunteers are coming away with the experience under their belts to really set them apart from the rest of the crowd.



## DENTISTRY



We often find that dental care is neglected in many of the communities that we work in. Perhaps this is understandable given the lack of money to pay for things that we take for granted – like a toothbrush and toothpaste. However, we are doing our best to raise the level of dental awareness and support dental technicians in these communities by providing volunteers keen to work in this area. Places are available for people with all levels of experience.

## NURSING & MIDWIFERY

Volunteers on a Nursing project can choose to work in a clinical setting in Bolivia, China, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Mongolia, Senegal or Sri Lanka. Midwifery volunteers will find themselves in a busy maternity clinic, supporting the staff by helping with both pre and post-natal patients, and assisting with deliveries. Places are available for people with all levels of experience.



## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



As an Occupational Therapy volunteer, you are sure to be in great demand. Occupational Therapy is something of a luxury, that hospitals and healthcare organisations in many developing countries cannot currently afford. Health centres, orphanages and other projects are often very poorly resourced, and lack trained staff with the critical knowledge and skills to help their patients ease back into daily life. We now have placements in Argentina, Bolivia, Moldova, South Africa and Thailand for training or qualified OTs.

## SOME OF OUR DESTINATIONS:

**In Bolivia** we are based in Cochabamba, a university town which has strong colonial influences, including some beautiful architecture and wide, open plazas. There is always plenty to do here and everything starts late in the evening! Further afield you can explore the Andes, the Amazon basin and the majestic Lake Titicaca.

**In Ghana** we are based in a number of very different locations, from the energy and excitement of the cities of Accra and Kumasi to the laid back atmospheres of Cape Coast and the Akuapem Hills. In your free time you may spend time watching elephants and monkeys in a National Park, or just relaxing on a beach.

**In Mongolia** we are based in the capital Ulaanbaatar, which is a fascinating city, blending all manner of traditional and modern influences into one location. Outside of work there are plenty of cultural and entertainment pursuits, and travel opportunities include the beautiful Gobi Desert and the chance to stay with Nomads on the Central Asian Steppe.

## → Why choose Projects Abroad?

**Safety & Security:** We take your security abroad very seriously. Before we send volunteers anywhere, the countries must be politically stable and safe. We are in contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, regarding safety and stability and, of course, we have the added security of our own overseas staff who know the local area in detail.

**Structure:** Our medical and healthcare programmes are structured so that you get the most out of your time overseas. Each placement will have a project supervisor there to provide assistance and guidance throughout the trip.

**Variety:** We want to match your skills and enthusiasm to the right project. By creating a wide variety of projects for volunteers, we allow you to select the project best suited to you. There are 17 destinations to choose from, allowing volunteers with all interests to find a placement that is just right for them.

**Flexibility:** Our projects have no set start dates which mean you can choose when your placement begins.

**CV and Self-Development:** Voluntary work with Projects Abroad is excellent for your CV and college applications. It gives you greater life experience, develops personal skills, and shows your initiative to try something new - traits which appeal to employers and universities.

**Prices:** Medical placements start from **£995** for 2 weeks upwards.

## → 3 easy ways to apply



Telephone  
Tel: +44 (0) 1903 708300



Internet  
[www.projects-abroad.co.uk](http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk)  
(Under section "Apply Now")



Application Form  
(Request a brochure)



“Working in the hospital I saw so much that I would never see or experience in England as an unqualified student. I watched trauma surgery, hip replacements, plastic surgery and gastro surgery.”

**Philippa Closier** (in Argentina)

“In my placement I got really involved – much more than I thought was possible. I worked primarily in an Accident and Emergency Department where I was involved in everything from bandaging to injections, but I also assisted with surgery, including an appendectomy and other abdominal surgery, and an amputation. My placements back home just never compared.”

**Fred Campbell-Jones** (in Mexico)

# MEDICINE & HEALTHCARE

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