



Paediatric Physiotherapists in the Independent and Private Sectors Committee

APCP Information Leaflet

Working as a Physiotherapist Overseas / for an NGO

As some physiotherapists may work in more than one area e.g. private work and charity work, please refer to each guidance sheet for specific information. There will be some crossover between areas, but also key differences.

Introduction

- ◇ Working or volunteering overseas or for a non-governmental organisation (NGO) as a physiotherapist can vary widely. At one end of the spectrum it can be very like working for the NHS here with all the support systems one is used to. At the other extreme there can be few resources, huge need and a poor knowledge base.
- ◇ Salaries can also vary widely, from being higher than in the UK to the provision of basic accommodation, food and an allowance for incidentals.
- ◇ Recruiting bodies can be government, humanitarian agencies, overseas development organisations or charities.

Patient funding

- ◇ A range - government, private health insurance, self-funded, charity funded or no funding.

Advantages

- ◇ Opportunity to see other parts of the world.
- ◇ Learning about other cultures.
- ◇ See and treat conditions not seen in UK.
- ◇ Cultural immersion - to learn a new language or two.
- ◇ Opportunities to gain experience in training others.

Challenges

- ◇ Work permits/ visas. Often need a sponsor or letter of invitation from the country.
- ◇ Eligibility- UK degree isn't recognised in some countries.
- ◇ Vaccinations can be expensive and need to be kept up to date.
- ◇ Working hours may be quite different from the UK.



Insurance

- ◇ Current UK CSP insurance is usually sufficient for short term trips (180 days) but this is dependent on you registering with the in-country professional body where it is required. Additional advice and insurance is available from www.graybrook.co.uk
- ◇ Travel insurance – typical worldwide policy is sufficient for a short tem trip.

Training (Mandatory / Statutory)

- ◇ A UK sending organisation often requires DBS which they usually apply for.
- ◇ If the employer does not offer training you are responsible for updating yourself on all other training as required. These can often be completed while on home leave.

Record Keeping

- ◇ This is often minimal in developing countries and varies in format. Attitudes vary from country to country.
- ◇ Keeping a CPD record is advisable to continue being registered with HCPC on return to the UK. A 2 year break is allowable under the conditions of the HCPC.

Terms and Conditions

- ◇ This would depend on your employer and the conditions in the host country. Short term workers can often set their own conditions, fitting in trips around leave.

Resources

CSP

http://www.csp.org.uk/sites/files/csp/secure/pd054_healthcare_information_to_support_practice_abroad_2014.pdf

ADAPT www.adapt.csp.org.uk/

This is the clinical network of the CSP for people working overseas. There are resources e.g. “Working Abroad” and access to a buddy system to support those new to the area. It also has the usual interactive section for Q&A

APCP

<https://apcp.csp.org.uk>

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