



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 1 What do you do? Who is Africa Health Placements?

We are a "social profit" organisation (non-profit working for the social benefit of the region!), and we recruit healthcare workers to hospitals in underserved areas in southern Africa. We facilitate the process from enquiry to placement and support you in finding the right position for your skills and interests.

#### 2 Where do you recruit to?

We cover the whole of South Africa but are not mandated to recruit to the Western Cape as the area is generally well supported. Other areas have a more critical need for doctors and other professionals.

#### 3 What kind of skills are you looking for?

We can take a wide variety of doctors as there are many positions available.

#### 4 What is the length of contracts / what time periods do you recruit for?

We find that the best duration for paid roles is one to three years, as this is more beneficial for the hospital and for the knowledge you are able to attain as a professional. The hospitals invest a lot of administrative effort and time coaching you; and for you to truly use the skills you have acquired, the extra time really is needed. However, should you wish to come for a shorter period, we can place candidates in voluntary posts for a month or more.

#### 5 What kind of supervision will I have?

It depends on what you feel you need. If you would prefer to have more support, then we can place you in a hospital where there is a team of doctors available. Due to personnel limitations, you may at times be required to work unsupervised and take charge of departments or responsibilities, but can always get hold of someone by telephone. The nursing staff are quite experienced too.

Please be aware that if you are deemed to be inexperienced in a particular area by the Health Professions Council, then you may have to complete a pre-arranged supervised placement in that specialty prior to starting your placement. This is an excellent opportunity to brush up on your skills under experienced clinicians.

#### 6 What will it cost me to go through the process?

Approximately £ 1,000, which covers your registration as a doctor, administration, legal document requirements, postage and work permit. Your airfares will vary between £ 600 and £ 700 depending on when you travel. As a non-profit, AHP charges nothing for its own service.

#### 7 Where will I be located?

That depends on what is available. Your skills and location preferences can be taken into account. Some rural hospitals are located a few hours drive from urban centres, but many are not very far from the city at all. If you are located in a regional hospital, you may be situated in an urban area. Regional hospitals serve the rural hospitals and clinics as referral centres when specialist treatment is required.

#### 8 Where will I stay?

Accommodation is quite often provided on the hospital grounds for a nominal amount of +/- £ 100 to £ 200 pm. If not on site, local accommodation can be fairly easily obtained. Accommodation isn't fancy, but then luxury is not the reason to come work in rural Africa!





**9 What kind of work will I be doing?**

Unless you are a Consultant Specialist, you will normally be doing generalist work, which means you are expected to provide basic care to the emergency department, outpatient and inpatient clinics as well as visit satellite clinics. Surgical procedures will depend on your experience and skills, but you can learn a lot if you want to expand your skill set and cover a broad spectrum.

The services required in the outlying clinics are most closely allied to that of a general practitioner. There is a premium on obstetric skills and you may learn some anaesthetics and tropical disease treatments; and you will certainly gain experience in the treatment of HIV and TB.

**10 What kind of remuneration can I expect?**

Entry-level salary is in the region of £ 25,000pa. Living costs are lower than in the UK, and you will certainly have enough free cash to travel around and experience the country and culture. You should, however, bear in mind that you will need to buy or share a car, as public transport is very limited.

**11 Can I bring my partner/spouse who is not a health professional?  
What will they do and will you be able to find a job for them?**

Yes, you may bring them. When you apply for your work permit, he or she will need to apply for a year's holiday visa. If you are both accommodated by the hospital, you will need to get approval from the hospital as well. If your partner or spouse wants to do volunteer work, they will need an invitation letter and a volunteer permit. The availability of work is highly dependent on their skills. We are unfortunately not able to find paid roles for them – it would be best to look around once in the country.

**12 Do I need to sit examinations to work in South Africa?**

All applications received go through the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) for approval. The HPCSA Board makes the determination on whether the candidate meets the requirements, or whether they need to sit a supplementary exam.



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