

“My placement in Ghana was the most fascinating and perspective changing experience in my psychiatry career. I particularly appreciated observing and participating in Ghana’s culture, which made me reflect on how I consider and teach psychiatry.”

~ Dr Greg Neate 2010



“Thank you for facilitating such an amazing opportunity. I’ve enjoyed it so much and learned a immense amount. It’s been really formative for me and reconnected me with psychiatry in a way that I wasn’t expecting at all.”

~ Dr Lisa Conlan 2012

Expressions of interest and for application forms, contact:

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INTERNATIONAL OOPT/OOPE OPPORTUNITY

for

HIGHER SPECIALIST TRAINEES

in

ACCRA - GHANA



In association with the
Royal College of Psychiatrists
and the Ghana Health Service

The Context

The shortage of doctors in Ghana has led to the creation of the position of Medical Assistant. At present, there are around 15 across the three main mental health hospitals in Ghana. The Medical Assistants have had at best minor training in psychiatric work during their general qualification. Most were psychiatric nurses with three years training and at least one year practical experience.

The Basics

What?

An overseas OOPT/E opportunity - timetable roughly mirrors post in UK

Where?

Primarily in Pantang Psychiatric Hospital in Accra, Ghana

Why?

To strengthen the local capacity of Medical Assistants

When?

3 month placements throughout the year

Who?

Enthusiastic, mature and skilled psychiatrists in ST4-6



Each placement is unique, but here is an idea of what most past participants have done during their three months:

- **Mentoring and in-service training** of MAs at both Pantang and Accra hospitals in daily clinical work (primary focus)
- **Individual research** activities (concentration agreed in advance with Pantang)
- **Teaching trainee MAs** at Kintampo rural training centre (one week placement)

Some feedback from the Ghanaian MAs

'All the presentations are very relevant to our practicing field'

'Teachings are very interesting and also his ward rounds'

'Very punctual, teaches very well'

'The teaching have added a lot of knowledge and make me very confident in handling cases'

'Style of teaching (interactive) was helpful. A very tolerable person indeed!'

What do we provide?

Pre-departure, we:

- * assist with the OOPT/E application
- * arrange medical registration
- * conduct a pre-departure briefing to prepare you for life and work overseas
- * provide insurance
- * provide accommodation and airport transfers

On placement, we:

- * review your weekly reports alongside your UK mentor and provide remote support if needed
- * provide a 24 hour emergency contact

Post-placement, we:

- * arrange a debrief to discuss possible improvements to the programme and suggestions for future participants

How is it financed?

You are paid a basic salary (without banding or London weighting) for two months of the three month placement. Flights are not included, however, funding may be available via RCPsych.

