

Laboratory Volunteer (Funded), King's Sierra Leone Partnership

Terms of Reference

Start Date: June 2019

Placement Duration: 8 months with possibility to extend

Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Reporting to: Country Director / Infectious disease lead

The Function

The King's Sierra Leone Partnership (KSLP) is a long-term capacity building partnership between King's Health Partners in London and key partner institutions in Sierra Leone. KSLP aims to help strengthen Sierra Leone's health system by improving training, clinical services, policy and research. Key partners include University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospital Complex Connaught Hospital, the College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) and the Ministry of Health & Sanitation (MOHS).

During the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, KSLP played a critical role in the response in Sierra Leone with the establishment and supervision of Holding Units for suspected cases of EVD, training of Health Care Workers and contributing in the Case Management pillar at the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC). As Sierra Leone moves in to the recovery phase, KSLP is helping support postgraduate medical training in Sierra Leone, based at the University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospital Complex, of which Connaught Hospital is the principal site.

The Role

KSLP is looking to recruit a Laboratory Scientist for its in-country team. This person will be based in Freetown and will have a critical role in supporting laboratory strengthening activities with a particular emphasis on training and mentorship. Whilst work is based at Connaught Hospital, the aim is that lessons learnt, and implementation strategies developed can be used by the National Laboratory Technical Working Group for other hospitals in Sierra Leone. The successful candidate will work with Connaught Laboratory staff and other KSLP team members to:

- Develop and deliver training sessions to in-service laboratory technicians and undergraduate laboratory scientists within Connaught and across national laboratories
- Support in the development of toolkits and training packages
- Support laboratory staff to implement Standard Operating Procedures
- Facilitate the implementation and ongoing review of local diagnostic pathways for fever and malaria
- Supporting the interface between the laboratory and clinicians
- Support national strategic priorities for laboratory strengthening such as progress towards accreditation

Person Specification

- **Qualifications:** Undergraduate degree in laboratory science (or other relevant field). Postgraduate qualifications desirable. Qualifications in training an advantage
- **Experience:**
 - Clinical laboratory experience, particularly with parasitology and or microbiology experience
 - Experience of formal teaching (including developing materials) and practical mentorship
 - Experience leading the design of SOPs and bench aids
 - Experience in leading Quality Improvement projects, and teaching others in QI methods
 - Experience in developing internal and external quality assurance mechanisms
- **Skills:** Excellent written and spoken English; strong IT skills (particularly MS Office and LIMS)
- **Personal Characteristics:** Excellent interpersonal and intercultural skills, as well as confidence working within a multicultural team and with senior staff from partner institutions; skilled at multitasking and prioritising, working independently with minimal supervision, and leading and designing projects autonomously; an appreciation of the philosophy behind a long-term co-development health partnership.

Support Provided to Volunteers

This is an 8 month unpaid voluntary position but the post holder will be provided with:

- Return flights to and from initial post, plus two paid leave flights to and from Freetown
- £500 monthly stipend for living expenses, paid in local currency
- Multi-entry visa, residency permit & professional registration
- Vaccinations & antimalarials
- Insurance
- Accommodation in a shared KSLP house

To Apply: Submit a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) and CV (maximum 4 pages) to volunteer@kslp.org.uk. Please include the role title in the subject line of the email. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.