

King's Sierra Leone Partnership

Biomedical Engineer Volunteers

Overview

Start date(s): Between March 2021 and September 2021 **Placement Duration:** 12 months

Location: Connaught Hospital, Freetown, Sierra Leone **Reporting to:** KSLP Partnership Lead

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 the Connaught Hospital and the College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) in the University of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS).

Hospital maintenance is a vital part of a strong health system. It is an essential component of health service delivery; without functioning medical equipment, patients cannot be properly diagnosed, monitored, treated or rehabilitated. Since 2015 King's Global Health Partnerships has delivered an ambitious hospital engineering and maintenance programme in partnership with Connaught Hospital. From constructing Sierra Leone's first Oxygen Factory to building the Centre of Excellence in Infectious Diseases, the programme has been transformative to Connaught Hospital's patient care.

These roles are subject to funding availability, which will be confirmed in early 2021.

The opportunity

This project will build on this success. The successful candidates will train hospital maintenance teams from across Sierra Leone, working with them to build the skills and implement the systems that will improve patient care. Through small group teaching, 1-1 mentorship and regular training sessions, this project will enable nationwide change to patients.

The project will ultimately improve the capacity of hospital maintenance teams contributes to cost effective, efficient hospital services, supporting patient care. Investing in hospital maintenance nationwide will reduce repair costs, ensure value for money on existing investments and enable higher quality patient care across hospitals.

KSLP is looking to recruit two Biomedical Engineer Volunteers for its in-country team from March or April 2021 for 12 months. The two volunteers will be based at Connaught Hospital in Freetown with some travel to regional or district hospitals.

The volunteers will work together to build the capacity of 30 maintenance staff from district, regional and tertiary facilities. The volunteers will use a 1-1 mentorship and teaching approach to develop the skills and systems of the maintenance teams:

- Run 3 one-week training courses for 30 maintenance team members, building skills in basic maintenance and engineering, working towards more complex repairs of equipment such as imaging machinery
- Undertake regular mentorship visits to multiple hospitals, supporting the teams on a 1-1 basis in their working environment. Working together the volunteers and teams will establish the facility-level systems and processes for hospital maintenance, such as stock management, preventative maintenance plans and job request forms
- Work with a small group of the maintenance team to develop skills in preventative maintenance and repairs of oxygen cannisters and plants, building on the investment of previous projects

The volunteers will also work with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to develop plans for in-country accreditation and qualification in hospital maintenance and engineering.

Who do we want?

- **Qualifications:**
Essential – A vocational qualification **or** undergraduate degree **or** significant (3+ years) work experience in a relevant discipline.
- **Experience:**
Essential - A minimum of 2 years' work experience in a relevant role. Experience of mentoring and training others.
Desirable - Experience of working a low resource setting, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. Experience of working in a healthcare setting. Experience in running training courses.

Personal Characteristics: Hardworking, enthusiastic, creative and solution focused. Possesses excellent interpersonal skills, feels confident working within a multicultural team. Skilled at multitasking, prioritising and working independently with minimal supervision. Believes in the value of partnership working and is sensitive to the challenging nature of health care delivery in a resource scarce environment

When?

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Next steps

If you are interest in applying, please submit a C.V. and a cover letter to KGHP@kcl.ac.uk. Please name the subject of your email clearly with '**Volunteer Application for Biomedical Engineer Volunteers**'. The deadline for applications is 23:59 at 24/01/2021

Thank you for your interest in King's Global Health Partnerships.