

Apply today and you could be...

A Biomedical Scientist at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi

What's the context and purpose of the role?

The Malawian Health Services are critically overstretched, a problem exasperated by a severe shortage of health professionals at all levels. Many Malawians have little or no access to health care and attempts to treat patients based on comprehensive and reliable lab results are marred by a lack of skilled and experienced biomedical scientists. As a VSO volunteer you'll work at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital to improve lab management and provide practical, on-the-job training for lab staff to ensure their work is more proficient, effective and sustainable.

What does the role involve?

- Improving laboratory management, facilitating the implementation of a quality management plan.
- Supervising and providing practical on-the-job training for laboratory assistants and students from the Malawi College of Medicine.
- Implement new HIV & AIDS and TB testing protocols to improve accuracy to support clinical diagnosis.
- Writing monitoring and evaluation reports for publication in local and national medical journals.
- Enhancing key reporting systems to laboratory management and clinical teams.



What skills, experience and personal qualities are needed for the role?

You'll be a qualified biomedical scientist with at least 2-3 years' post-qualification experience. Experience of working in a teaching/training capacity using participatory methods is desirable as is familiarity with clinical research. Ideally you'll have experience in a quality improvement/evaluation and inventory management, as well as knowledge of HIV & AIDS and TB diagnostics. The ability to work effectively with limited resources and retain a positive and flexible approach is a must for VSO volunteers, as is a good sense of humour!

And the rest...

The name Malawi means 'reflected light of bright blaze', a most apt description of this country whose area is one fifth covered by water. Besides the magnificent Lake, Malawi has five national parks, beautiful scenery and year round sunshine. You'll be based in lively Blantyre, Malawi's largest city and main commercial centre on the shire river.

We'll ask you to commit to 12 - 24 months to make a sustainable contribution to our development goals. In return, we'll give you comprehensive financial, personal and professional support. We'll provide you with extensive training before your placement, and our financial package includes a local salary, return flights, accommodation, insurance and more. When you return to your home country, we'll help you to resettle and many of our returned volunteers stay involved with us long after their placement ends.

www.vso.org.uk/volunteering