

Apply today and you could be...

A Nurse and Midwife Teacher at Mzuzu University in Malawi

What's the context and purpose of the role?

Although Malawi has had some successes on its way to the Millennium Development Goals, it still faces challenges on several fronts with major problems in maternal mortality, high HIV and AIDS prevalence rates, gender inequality and hunger. 49% of children under the age of five are chronically malnourished and the maternal mortality rate is on the increase: it's now estimated to be between 1120 and 1800 per 100 000 live births. Malawi suffers from an acute shortage of qualified medical workers. VSO is supporting the Ministry of Health in its emergency programme aiming to tackle this human resource crisis. As a teacher at Mzuzu University, you'll make a tangible contribution to improving care for women and children in northern Malawi by training the next generation of midwives and nurses.

What does the role involve?

- Clinical lecturing, divided between clinic-based instruction and classroom teaching
- Curriculum review and development
- Setting, administering and marking examinations and tests for assessment
- Clinical training and supervising students
- Attending university staff meetings

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

You'll be a registered midwife or nurse with at least 5 years' post-qualification work experience. You'll also need teaching experience at a recognised institution. A masters degree and awareness of practising in an African context are desirable. You'll need the ability to work with the challenges posed by few resources, and the flexibility to adapt your teaching skills to a new cultural and working environment. You'll have great interpersonal skills that will help you to build rapport with both students and university management. A positive attitude, patience and strong problem solving skills are vital for this role.

And the rest...

The name Malawi means 'reflected light' or 'bright haze', a rather suitable description of this land-locked country whose area is one-fifth covered in water. Magnificent Lake Malawi is Africa's third largest lake with astounding sub-aqua life - it can feel a bit like snorkelling in an aquarium! You'll be based in Mzuzu, the bustling and vibrant capital of northern Malawi. It has a selection of shops including several small super-markets, many hardware stores and a bakery that produces excellent samosas and cream buns. Mzuzu is also close to Nkhata Bay, a beautiful lakeside town, which supplies the fish and is a lovely place for a weekend away.

We'll ask you to commit to 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

