



world anaesthesia society
supporting anaesthesia in resource-poor settings

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THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS
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Proposal Document

Good Volunteering Practice for Anaesthetists

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Increasing numbers of anaesthetists are interested in volunteering in resource-poor settings, either independently or within established health partnerships. There is recognition from the NHS that allowing staff to volunteer is of mutual benefit to both their home and host countries, and Health Education England is seeking to support doctors in training to take time out of their training programmes to spend time overseas.

Within the UK, VSO and THET have enormous institutional experience in both volunteering abroad and in establishing international healthcare partnerships. Within the speciality of Anaesthesia, there is a similar wealth of experience within the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA), the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA), the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland (AAGBI), and the World Anaesthesia Society (WAS).

There exist many established courses to introduce Anaesthetists to some of the issues around working in different healthcare environments, looking at both the clinical and personal challenges that they may be presented with. However, these remain optional, and there is no consensus benchmarking of the preparation they provide.

An online course is proposed, with content provided by all of the stakeholders listed above, to act as a universal tool for all UK Anaesthetists interested in working overseas. The intended focus is not clinical provision, but the ethical, personal, and professional challenges that come from working within the environment of international development. The proposed course would not replace any existing training, but act instead as a minimum criteria to demonstrate a degree of personal preparation for those seeking funding the International Relations Committee of the AAGBI, which is supported by both the RCoA and the WAS. It is intended that core content on volunteering and healthcare partnerships, kindly provided through THET and VSO, could be made available to other interested organisations, with the Anaesthesia-specific component owned collectively by all other parties.