

Medical Ethics Policy



Our Medical programme mission is to enable an exchange of medical knowledge and facilitate a greater understanding of global healthcare practices. By empowering local communities, we aim to improve standards of health through awareness, prevention and treatment.

■ Your Role as a Medical Volunteer or Intern

- Your aim is to contribute towards the goals of your destination's Medical Management Plan, available on our website. These goals are chosen based on the needs in each destination and will be discussed on your induction.
- Your role is to learn through observation.
- You will only conduct work which you would be qualified to do in your home country and destination, and with the consent and supervision of local professionals.
- Volunteers with medical training or qualifications may have the opportunity to take on more direct medical work, but only at the discretion of local professionals.
- You will not perform any work for which you are not trained, or which you do not feel comfortable doing.
- A listening and learning attitude is essential when it comes to cultural challenges. Observe the perspective of the health care professionals as well as the patients.
- You are expected to follow the procedures, rules and guidelines of your medical placement, and behave in a professional and ethical manner both inside and outside your placement.
- You will not put yourself, other volunteers or patients at risk during your project work.
- Your primary focus and responsibility is to the patient, and as such ensuring the welfare of the patient is your priority.
- The confidentiality of the patient is paramount. Photographs, personal information or location information may not be shared (including on social media) without the permission of the patient and Projects Abroad.
- You will respect the wishes and desires of patients, and their right to choose the care they receive.
- If you are unsure of a task, or uncomfortable with your responsibility, please speak to Projects Abroad staff and your local supervisor.

I acknowledge that breaching any of the above can result in legal liability and/or disciplinary action, up to and including my removal from the project. This may have an impact on my future opportunities for study and work. I am aware of my responsibility and commitment, and agree to uphold these important standards.

Volunteer Name

Signature

Date

Staff Name

Signature

This policy should be read before departure and signed on induction by every volunteer or intern on a Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Dentistry, Nutrition, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Public Health project or elective. It should also be adhered to by any non-medical volunteers assisting on a medical outreach.