

# GAVI: The Vaccine Alliance

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## **Information Interview with Programme Officer**

**Personal Work Experience:** BSc and MSc in Engineering; 4 years working in Management Consulting; MSc in Control of Infectious Diseases. Summer project looking at risk factors for malaria in a clinical trial for a new intervention in Tanzania (primary data collection in Tanzania). Knew wanted to work with secondary data in career so took opportunity to get experience collecting primary field data to fully understand challenges and processes. If didn't get a job at GAVI, was thinking of doing a PhD in economic analysis of vaccines, but applied for job at GAVI summer of MSc and was successful.

**Average day in the job:** "Evidence, analytics and information" i.e. strategic information for the business and provide the information to be able to make decisions and work out which policies to approve. Understand if GAVI is doing well and produce reports on progress and performance. Currently working on a project looking at Antimicrobial Resistance for the CEO, updating the board on progress and how the work of GAVI contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, and looking at new vaccines to possibly invest in.

**General pieces of advice:** Most valuable thing from time at LSHTM was developing technical skills from modules such as *Statistical Methods in Epidemiology / Modelling and Dynamics of Infectious Diseases / Spatial Epidemiology in Public Health* as particularly for entry-level roles, want people who can bring skills (rather than just knowledge).

Don't just stick to the larger organisations when applying, think about the smaller NGOs, and stay flexible – usually what you think you want to do, may not actually be what you want to do. Be okay with making mistakes and be happy to experiment with different projects.

## **GAVI**

*"Gavi is an international organization – a global vaccine alliance, bringin together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the poorest countries"*

Skills considered most valuable from previous roles include how to operate in an environment with lots of simultaneous projects. Being able to admit that you don't know everything, and knowing who to approach to support you who will know the answer. Strong team-working skills complemented by technical skills from MSc. Good knowledge of how International NGOs and Governmental Public Health Organisations work is a plus. Consider using your summer project to learn about how the government works in the country you are focusing on, and how your work fits into their goals.

Funders such as GAVI and Global Fund will usually only consider job applications from those who have a minimum of 5 years' work experience. GAVI offer internships, but it is difficult to move into a job afterwards. For those who have limited work experience, best options are to look at smaller NGOs or academic organisations which have short term contracts. Roles offered on a rolling basis, check the website. Usually have around 10 internships at any one time. Usually better to apply for advertised opportunities.

Main Offices in Geneva and Washington DC.

Website: <http://www.gavi.org/careers/vacancies/>