

# Lao Friends Hospital for Children

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## **Interview was conducted with Matt Evans at Lao Friends Hospital for Children**

**Could you describe your role of a volunteer nurse?** The Lao Friends Hospital is a 26 bed hospital, part of a 10-year project run independently with intention to hand it back to the government after the project. Run by NGO through donations. There are 80 Laos staff ranging from human resources, nurses, doctors and each person has a volunteer counterpart. Write grant proposals and liaise with local community. 20 volunteers at one time ranging from one 1-12 months with opportunities in administrative and medical positions.

**What does the average day look like in that job role?** Working as a volunteer nurse for example. Managing work flow between departments and trainee team leaders supervising them and medication checking. Laos education quite poor so additional 45 minute of teaching lessons every morning

**What kind of skills do you consider most relevant in your current job?** Diploma of Tropical Nursing desirable. In addition to paediatric experience and worked abroad before, fluent English for communication with the hospital (working language being English). Key trait is being adaptable to the local resources and culture.

**What are the things you most value from your time at LSHTM, that helped you get to where you are today?:** Background knowledge of tropical medicine, setting up a hospital system related modules were highly useful in setting effective practices in resource poor settings.

**What pieces of advice would you give a current Masters/PhD student when applying for jobs within global health:** Come across as adaptable, enthusiastic, read around the topic of working in a resource poor setting so recruiter knows this person understands the challenges and will have solutions to the problems.

**After working for 3 months there, what would the next step be?** After completing the programme the applicant will have gained contacts in local NGOs and there is a high local importance of business cards in networking events within Laos.

**How do you advertise your position/opportunities:** <http://reliefweb.int/> (main), <https://www.devex.com/>, Liverpool school and global health programs, word of mouth from previous volunteers, <http://www.indigovolunteers.org/>.

**General Advice:** Internships or volunteer in related fields with all level of expertise welcomed

Offices and project based in Laos.

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