

Madagascar Medical

As a Madagascar medical volunteer you will work to promote a positive lasting change in the health and lives of the people of Madagascar in this dazzling and compelling destination.

Madagascar's dramatic forest landscape is home to a fascinating diversity of life, with baobab and aloe trees, lemurs, chameleons and a whole host of other species that are found nowhere else on earth! Its fantastically beautiful coastline boasts coral reefs rich in marine species, perfect for diving and snorkelling, and silky sanded beaches ideal for soaking up the bountiful sunshine. Madagascar's culture is vibrant and diverse; you will find bustling markets full of multi-coloured produce and hospitable locals shouting their wares.

By taking part in this programme you will be helping to improve the lives of the local community by providing primary healthcare. Working in a variety of capacities, this exciting programme will challenge you and open your eyes to the reality of working as a medical professional in a developing country, as well as giving you the chance to discover this land of glorious visual spectacles.

You will gain valuable experience in a specific career field that combines learning with frontline observation in a working health environment. This practical learning experience within the workplace provides an invaluable addition to classroom learning and an ideal opportunity to develop your future career.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Gain valuable work experience within the healthcare field
- Work in a hospital in Hellville
- Live in the Volunteer House located in central Hellville
- Make lifelong friends with your co-workers

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Advanced level of French
- This project is available to students currently enrolled on a medical or nursing course or qualified medical professionals.
- You will spend your time undertaking a variety of healthcare and medical tasks dependent on qualifications and experience.
- Up to date CV
- Criminal background check (DBS)

FAST FACTS

Location	Madagascar
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Activities	Shadow healthcare professionals working at the hospital, in the office or in the field Raise awareness of health, nutrition and fitness through community outreach services Provide assistance with the health education and training of local communities
Transport	Airport pickup weekly on a Monday. Alternative start dates possible, additional £50 applies for pickup, please speak to an adviser Internal ground transfers weekly on a Monday
Accommodation	Shared communal accommodation in the volunteer house in Hellville

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Madagascar's socio-economic demographic is changing fast. It is clear that the healthcare industry needs to change with it and have a clear plan to address the negative effects of urbanisation and modernisation. At the same time the cost of healthcare and medical treatment is becoming increasingly expensive and is often unaffordable for the wider community, where dietary problems are widespread and the most vulnerable suffer as a consequence.

It is the young and the old who lack access to appropriate medical attention and support programmes. Even the few patients who can afford to go to hospitals find the overcrowded system only addresses the symptoms of the disease through reactive drug treatment and is unable to provide comprehensive care and advice to tackle the cause of illness within the community.

The work of this project looks to lead by example with a range of positive healthcare initiatives and outreach projects to bring about this change, including providing primary healthcare, promoting hygienic practices and encouraging active and healthy lifestyles.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

This is a fantastic opportunity for volunteers who are studying, recently qualified or wanting a challenging work break from medicine to come to a developing country and experience local healthcare provision in stunning Madagascar. Qualified doctors or nurses are always a major asset to healthcare departments in this under funded sector and your knowledge and experience would help immensely to build local human capacity.

Volunteers' activities will depend on their qualifications and experience as well as the availability of local staff working at the hospital at the time of your placement. With all placements we will endeavour to accommodate your own previous work experience, interests and skills while taking into account the changing needs and priorities of the healthcare organisation to which you are attached. Their priorities range from nutrition, health and fitness to general health check ups.

You may find yourself working, assisting or observing in various departments within the hospital. This could include helping with the education and training of wellness officers, health and disease screening, raising health and nutrition awareness through talks and presentations or taking part in local community outreach services. Volunteers are asked to remain flexible and use their initiative in order to get the most out of this placement.

You may have the opportunity to integrate within the wider community by providing mobile care and teaching and training at local schools and villages. This aspect of the work would focus on nutrition and health awareness. However, please be aware that this aspect of your work cannot be guaranteed and is dependent upon the needs of the project at the time of your visit.

More experienced individuals, such as medical practitioners, qualified doctors and final year medical students, with determination, enthusiasm, aptitude and the right inclination may be able to assist the doctors and nurses at the clinic in their duties and gain hands-on experience of administering healthcare to the Malagasy people.

Medical placement working hours can vary immensely. This can include making outreach calls and providing surgeries in the evenings and on weekends. The key to your success will depend on how much you are willing to contribute and how hard you are able to work. With an open mind and flexible attitude you will enjoy an experience to remember, make friends for life and gain valuable work experience on important health related programmes.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

Volunteers arriving weekly on a Monday will be welcomed by a Frontier representative at Nosy Be airport. From here it's a short taxi or minibus ride from the airport to the centre of the vibrant town of Hellville and your accommodation at the volunteer house.

Independent travellers arriving on dates other than weekly on a Monday can arrange a separate airport collection at an extra cost of 27 EUR by contacting the project staff.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

During the project you'll live in a wonderfully located volunteer house in the centre of Hellville, where you will enjoy a unique and memorable living experience. The house is approximately a ten minute walk from the local primary school where we base the majority of our work and has all of the principal amenities one would expect from such a setup – equipped kitchen, flushing toilet and running water shower! House life is however very simple, unsophisticated and fun and will give you as much as you are prepared to put into it. The 'community' feel of the house is excellent and you will be made to feel right at home.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

You will be provided with 3 simple and nutritious meals a day, which will consist largely of locally sourced fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, rice, beans and noodles, most of which is purchased from the nearby market and thereby helps to support the local economy. Luxuries such as chocolate, peanut butter and Nutella are available in the town, so can be accessed if you wish to treat yourself every once in a while!

Part of your role in the volunteer house will be to help with the cooking. Creating spectacular meals over our marvellous gas stoves will become second nature, so get your cookbooks out now and start thinking up recipes!

COSTS

1 week	€ 795
2 weeks	€ 995
3 weeks	€ 1.195
4 weeks	€ 1.395
5 weeks	€ 1.595
6 weeks	€ 1.795
7 weeks	€ 1.995
8 weeks	€ 2.195
9 weeks	€ 2.395
10 weeks	€ 2.545
20 weeks	€ 4.245
Extra week	€ 245

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Nossi-Be (NOS)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.