

Medical skills could make all the difference to Raleigh International

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Raleigh International, the education charity, is looking for qualified and committed medical staff to take part in an experience of a lifetime.

The charity - which offers young people from all backgrounds overseas expeditions to exciting and remote locations - relies on a network of volunteer managers aged 25 and over to ensure that each expedition runs smoothly and safely. Raleigh International expeditions focus on developing young people's skills and confidence, as well as putting something back into the communities in which the expedition participants live and work.

Currently, Raleigh International is looking for Medics to join their support teams in Borneo, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and India. Volunteers must be qualified Doctors, RGNs or Paramedics with at least two-years post-qualification experience, and must feel comfortable with the realities and limitations of expedition medicine. In return for each individual's time and commitment, Raleigh International can offer some truly unique experiences in some of the world's challenging and remote locations.

The expedition Medic is an essential role to each Raleigh International expedition, and in fact expeditions could not take place without a team of volunteer medics. The role involves ensuring that the whole expedition stays healthy; providing first aid training and on-the-spot medical treatment where needed. Typically, each group of young volunteers will have a medic attached to it – meaning that Medics are also very involved in facilitating the development of young people, and with building, trekking and environmental projects. As with all volunteer managers Medics must be willing to turn their hand to any task, pay for their flight and basic living expenses, and have a general interest in youth development and supporting young people.

Simon Longley, a 31 year-old Station Supervisor Paramedic with Tees East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Service initially decided to volunteer in Namibia with Raleigh International to enhance his career prospects.

“I was considering applying for a post as an Emergency Care Practitioner and realised that volunteering for a Raleigh expedition would be good experience for the role.”

“Volunteering with Raleigh International has definitely helped me to realise that I can do more than I thought, if I put my mind to it. I felt as though I could cope with everything that the expedition presented me with, and being part of Raleigh has definitely increased my confidence.”

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For more information about Raleigh International visit www.raleighinternational.org or email staff@raleigh.org.uk

For hi-res pics and further case studies email Anne.consedine@btinternet.com or call 0781 804 8438

Notes for aspiring expedition medics

- Applicants must be a medically qualified Doctor, Registered General Nurse or Paramedic with a minimum of two year's post-qualification experience
- Applicants must be up to date with current medical practices and able to triage
- Ideally applicants should have A&E experience, be able to cannulate, treat superficial wounds and have a comprehensive understanding of wound care. Knowledge of sports injuries, tropical diseases and mountaineering knowledge would also be advantageous
- All Doctors must be a member of MPS or MDU, who will provide unlimited indemnity at a small cost. Doctors must inform MDU or MPS of the country they are volunteering in and cannot work for longer than 12 weeks
- All nurses must be a member of the RCN, who will cover nurses up to a limit of £2,000,000 for prescribing, suturing and cannulation if the nurse is competent in carrying out these procedures
- All Paramedics must join Unison, who will provide professional indemnity up to a limit of £1,000,000
- Midwives must join the RCN as the RCM will not provide professional indemnity
- All volunteer medics are recommended to undertake a training course in expedition and wilderness medicine in preparation for overseas expeditions. Please contact Raleigh International for further information
- A Raleigh International expedition commonly lasts for five or ten weeks; although all Medics are asked to arrive two weeks prior to the start of the expedition to take part in volunteer manager training