

University of Salford, Manchester

The prevalence of disability is very high in LMICs. Much of the disability associated with limb loss is a result of conflict injuries, domestic violence or road traffic accidents. In 2018, the University of Salford received funding to support, through technological (engineering) innovation, the development of low cost body-powered prosthetics appropriate to LMICs. In the early stages of this work we identified a neglected cadre of health workers in Ugandan public health facilities who lack opportunities for professional training and development. Most patients suffering limb loss in Uganda will seek help from orthopaedic technicians. The project will identify orthopaedic technicians in 5 health facilities and develop them as a team. Training, under the mentorship of experienced orthopaedic technicians, engineers and prosthetists, will include leadership and management; handling, assessment and measurement of patients, patient safety and infection prevention control. We are particularly keen to support disabled professionals.

Eligibility

Eligibility is restricted to health workers working with people suffering limb loss in orthopaedic workshops in a technical or rehabilitation capacity in the Ugandan public or not for profit sector. We would prioritise individuals who have not had access to training in a foreign context before and who play a leadership role in their workshop. We would be keen to support applications from individuals who have themselves suffered some form of limb loss or disability and would like to ensure that women are well represented amongst the 5 Fellows.

Website

<https://www.salford.ac.uk/research/care/research-groups/knowledge-health-and-place/projects/british-commonwealth-professional-fellowship-scheme>

Proposed activity

The Fellows would come to Salford in April 2019 for 12 weeks. This application is focused on identifying a cohort of technicians in Ugandan health facilities who would benefit from a training and community-building program enabling them to significantly improve the organisation and delivery of services to patients suffering limb loss in Uganda.

The emphasis on the areas described below reflects the needs identified in our scoping work in Ugandan public and not-for-profit orthopedic facilities for improved workshop management and skills enhancement.

Salford University has an international reputation in the provision of training in prosthetics and orthotics with state of the art facilities and highly qualified staff. Fellows will work alongside

Salford staff and students in these facilities under the mentorship of academic staff and workshop technicians.

On arrival the Fellows will receive an Induction in the Knowledge, Health and Place Research Group (KH&P) which hosts many global health projects. This will include setting up on the Salford honorary staff system and assessment of any basic training needs in terms of IT skills (provided free by the University). KH&P will provide office facilities, pastoral care, induction and generic support and organise workshops during their stay connecting them to our global health projects and personnel.

We have worked with the University's bespoke CPD provider 'ONECPD' otherwise known as 'Salford Professional Development' in the development of this proposal. ONECPD is an independent social enterprise linked to the University and provides tailored CPD programs on a wide variety of areas. Through the ONECPD mechanism we will organise a program tailored to the specific needs of the project and the individual fellows. This will draw on the collective expertise of a multi-disciplinary team of Salford University staff and external experts (including many with direct experience of working in Uganda). Working together with the team of prosthetists and biomedical engineers at the University of Salford we will put together a program combining a range of core skills in:

1. Leadership and management (of orthopaedic workshops) including equipment management; Patient safety (including hand hygiene and infection-prevention control)
2. Patient management and principles of respectful care; manual handling of patients
3. Measurement and assessment of patients suffering limb loss
4. Manufacture and fitting of low cost body powered prosthetics to include: casting techniques; design and production of componentry; lamination and draping;
5. Rehabilitation services and basic physio and occupational therapy; post-prescription servicing and repair of prostheses.

This program will be spread across the 12 weeks allowing Fellows time to absorb and discuss specific components. We would estimate a minimum of 25 days of formal training supported by on-going mentoring and team-working.

The final 2 weeks will focus on the co- production of training materials for use in orthopaedic workshops across Uganda.

CSC theme

Priority Theme 1 Strengthening health systems and capacity

Further details

For more information on how to apply, please visit the CSC website:
<http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/commonwealth-professional-fellowships-information-for-candidates/>