



UK-Med Register: Operating Department Practitioner

Candidate Information Pack

February 2025

Contents

2. Contents
3. The UK-Med Register
4. Introduction
5. Advert
6. How to Apply
7. About UK-Med
10. Job description
12. Person Specification
14. Key terms and benefits

The UK-Med Register

UK-Med is a frontline medical aid INGO. We've been working for over 20 years towards a world where everyone has the healthcare they need when crises or disasters hit. We're on-call to get to disaster zones at 24 hours' notice and save lives.

With crises becoming more frequent and severe, we also help communities get ready for future emergencies and we make sure that what we learn is shared, so people across the world can get the best care.

UK-Med responds to sudden onset disasters, disease outbreaks and other exceptional pressure on health systems by deploying surge health teams to provide extra clinical capacity and expertise. We both directly provide healthcare and undertake capacity building of local health systems and personnel.

We maintain a small core staff team who design, and develop our response capabilities, but the majority of people who deliver our services in the field come from our Register.

Our Register includes around 1000 professionals from across the world including doctors, nurses, other health professionals and humanitarian professionals.

Our commitment

We maintain a large Register to ensure that we can fill all roles required in the event of a major disaster. This means that in most years, most members of the UK-Med Register will not be offered any opportunity to join a response.

When personnel are needed for a response, we will build our response team from our Register and core staff team – around 90% of personnel in our responses are Register members. We will take account of skills, competencies, availability, and readiness (whether all vetting has been completed) in deciding who to invite to join a team – this is always defined by delivering the best possible health outcomes for our patients.

Being offered a place on the UK-Med Register is not an offer of a job. Opportunities with UK-Med are very unlikely to come up frequently enough to provide a regular income, and you will need to plan to have other work that is flexible enough to allow you to join UK-Med responses as required. This means that the UK-Med Register is not suitable for everyone.

The UK-Med Register provides personnel both for UK-Med independent responses and for responses of the UK Emergency Medical Team which deploys on behalf of the UK Government.

Our requirements

To be part of our Register you will need the following:

- Deployment - you will be ready, willing, and available to deploy internationally, potentially at short notice, and stay for 6 weeks or more. You don't have to be deployable every day of the year, but you will need to be able to be on call to support and advice in making decisions and facilitating in potentially difficult circumstances.
- A special arrangement exists for UK NHS staff, under which people can be released from their job to be deployed for three weeks at a time.
- Clinical and/or professional expertise – you must already be established in your profession to be able to meet the demands of the roles and contexts you will be in during our responses. The expertise and skills requirements are included in the person specification – if you do not meet these please don't apply.
- Humanitarian competencies – UK-Med has defined a set of core humanitarian competencies that are required for all Register members. If you are an experienced humanitarian, you will be expected to demonstrate these through real examples from your previous work or volunteering. If you are a skilled clinician with limited or no humanitarian experience, you will be expected to display these competencies through our selection training activities.
- Suitability – We expect all Register members to have the highest standards of personal and professional conduct, and to share our commitment to Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. We undertake extensive vetting to make sure that candidates meet our high standards of conduct. We also require all Register members to complete medical assessments to ensure that they are medically fit for deployment in our responses.



UK-Med is the most deployed Emergency Medical Team globally, responding to complex humanitarian healthcare emergencies at speed and scale. We have expanded significantly over the last few years and have an ambitious strategy in place for growth.

The world is experiencing an unprecedented level of humanitarian need. Natural disasters, disease outbreaks and conflict can hit at any time. The people affected are often the poorest and most vulnerable and the health problems they experience post-disaster are long-lasting. We believe that they deserve the highest quality emergency medical aid. We seek to save lives, but also to build resilient health systems so that people can lead healthy lives in the future.

At UK-Med, we work together to:

- **Respond** rapidly to emergencies, delivering the expertise needed to support local health services and save people's lives.
- **Prepare** health staff through training and capacity building, enabling health services to be better prepared for emergencies.
- **Learn** and share learning worldwide through our academic partners, ensuring patients get the best care.

Since late February 2022, we have been responding to calls for help with the crisis in Ukraine. We now have programmes across Ukraine including surgical support, health clinics, and emergency preparedness training. More than 30,000 people have already received direct support or training from UK-Med as a result.

In June 2022, we were awarded EMT (Emergency Medical Team) status by the World Health Organization. A month later, we were formally appointed to provide EMT services for the UK government. As such we are at the front line of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's response to humanitarian crises and can also respond to any crisis, anywhere in the world, under our own banner.

In February 2023, UK-Med deployed the UK Emergency Medical Team field hospital to Turkey in response to the earthquakes there. Since launching our response in Gaza in late 2024, we have created two field hospitals within the Gaza strip and supported surgical departments in several locations. Over 240,000 patients have benefited from UK-Med's treatment so far.

UK-Med Chief Executive Officer

David Wightwick

Advert

Role:	Operating Department Practitioner – Register
Remuneration:	GBP £3,300 to GBP £3,600 gross per month (Dependant on assignment and experience)
Hours:	UK-Med Register role, no guarantee of any work, but if deployed work will be full-time.
Duration:	Register members who deploy will be offered fixed-term contracts. The duration will depend on the requirements of the response, but most responses are between 4 and 12 weeks.
Location:	Internationally and/or to any of the UK-Med responses.

Are you an experienced Operating Department Practitioner skilled in delivery care in response to medical emergencies?

UK-Med is a frontline medical aid charity. Born of the British National Health Service, we've been working for over 30 years towards a world where everyone has the healthcare they need when crises or disasters hit.

We are seeking Operating Department Practitioners (ODP) with previous experience working in humanitarian contexts. You will be able to make yourself available to travel and work internationally at short notice for a minimum of 4-6 weeks (longer availability is highly desirable) to join our register.

The ODP will be responsible for the provision of care and support to patients that are receiving clinical case management support during UK-Med's Response Team activities. They will assist in surgical procedures, working closely with surgeons, anaesthesiologists, and other members of the surgical team. They ensure the surgical environment is safe and sterile, handle instruments and equipment, and anticipate the needs of the surgical team during procedures.

The ODP will provide comprehensive perioperative care to patients in humanitarian settings. This includes preparing patients for surgery, assessing their medical history and physical condition, monitoring vital signs, administering medications, managing pain, and providing postoperative care in recovery rooms (within scope of professional practice).

You must hold a current license to practice and be able to demonstrate your current and unconditional membership of a suitable registering organisation (HCPC). You must hold specific qualifications / professional registrations.

You will be determined, high performing, compassionate and collaborative, as well as being committed to learning and supporting others to learn. Language skills will be an advantage. We offer a competitive salary and benefits along with a friendly working environment and the opportunity to make a real difference through and influential role in humanitarian programming.

At the same time UK-Med tries to provide feedback to applicants and share with them where they have fallen short in the competitive process, it may be very difficult to provide individual feedback. Especially looking at the large number of applications UK-Med receives and the multiple recruitments taking place at the same time, specifically during times of ongoing emergency surges.

How to apply

To apply, please complete the questions and submit your CV through our [Online Jobs Portal](#) as soon as possible.

This vacancy will close as soon as we have received enough strong applications. Please apply as soon as possible.

The selection process consists of two stages:

Interview Stage: All applicants will go through an initial interview stage.

Selection Training Stage: Applicants who pass the interview stage and do not have a minimum of 3 years of humanitarian experience will be required to complete a selection training.

UK-Med is committed to safeguarding of our personnel and beneficiaries and has a zero-tolerance approach to sexual exploitation and abuse. We conduct thorough vetting before any appointment is confirmed.

UK-Med is committed to the principles of diversity, equality, and inclusion. We strive to provide an inclusive and supportive environment where employees feel respected and supported to be able to fulfil their potential.

About UK-Med

UK-Med (www.uk-med.org)

We train and deploy medical teams and specialists to save lives when epidemics, conflict and natural disasters hit. As disasters grow more frequent, severe, and complex there has never been a greater need to respond quickly and effectively. We believe in a world prepared to help.

It started in 1988 with a team of eight Manchester clinicians led by our founder Tony Redmond, when a huge earthquake ripped through Armenia. Teams continued to deploy throughout the 1990's and 2000s, and when Ebola struck West Africa in 2014 UK-Med stepped up. We recruited and trained the one hundred and fifty UK clinicians who worked alongside local medical teams, other NGOs and DFID to bring the outbreak under control.

UK-Med has deployed teams to a range of countries and crises including Cape Verde, China, Gaza, Haiti, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Jordan, Kosovo, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Bangladesh. Our teams have undertaken a range of work on deployment including general medical care, trauma and surgical care, outbreak response and training of local healthcare staff.

UK-Med Vision, Mission, and Values

Our Vision

A world where everyone has the healthcare they need when crises or disasters hit.

Our Mission

We save lives in emergencies.

When health services are overwhelmed, we get expert health staff to where they're needed fast.

We help communities prepare for future crises.

We Value

Excellence

We set high standards for ourselves and the organisation. We strive to be outstanding in everything we do.

Determination

We have a can-do attitude and thrive on problem solving. No matter what the challenge, we explore all options so if there's a way, we'll find it. We don't give up easily.

Compassion

We care about people. The health and wellbeing of our patients and our people is central to everything we do.

Learning

We believe in knowledge-sharing and giving people the means to develop their capabilities. We value learning and continual growth.

Collaboration

Working in partnership with stakeholders, communities and colleagues is key to the success of our work.

We respect the skills, knowledge, and experience of those we work with and take care to listen and adapt to changes in need.

Job Description

Operating Department Practitioner – Register

Job Title	Operating Department Practitioner – Register
Reports to	Medical Coordinator (MedCo)
Duration	Register members who deploy will be offered fixed-term contracts. The duration will depend on the requirements of the response, but most responses are between 4 and 12 weeks.
Hours	UK-Med Register role, no guarantee of any work, but if deployed work will be full-time.
Place of work	Internationally and/or to any of the UK-Med responses globally.

Purpose of role

As an Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) with UK-Med, you will provide specialized medical assistance and support in emergency and crisis situations. You will work closely with other healthcare professionals to ensure the delivery of safe and effective perioperative care, primarily in operating theatres. Your role will involve preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative patient care, as well as assisting in the management of critical incidents and emergencies.

Key responsibilities

Activities

Clinical practice

1	Assist in preparing patients for surgery, including verifying patient identity, obtaining consent, and ensuring a safe and sterile environment. Ensure that WHO theatre checklist is used and followed.
2	Help with patient assessment, including collecting relevant medical history, conducting physical examinations, and ensuring patients are adequately prepared for surgery. Assist in positioning patients and preparing them for anaesthesia.
3	Prepare and maintain necessary equipment and supplies for surgery.
4	Assist the anaesthetist and surgical team during procedures, ensuring proper handling of instruments, equipment, and medications.
5	Monitor patients' vital signs and assist in maintaining a safe and sterile surgical environment.
6	Administer medications as directed by healthcare professionals.
7	Anticipate and respond to the needs of surgeons, anaesthetists, and other team members during procedures.
8	Collaborate with the surgical team to ensure patient safety and optimize surgical outcomes.
9	Provide immediate postoperative care, including monitoring patients in the recovery room, managing pain, and addressing any complications.

10	Assist in transferring patients to postoperative units and handover to the relevant healthcare professionals.
11	Collaborate with the healthcare team in developing postoperative care plans and ensuring proper documentation of patient care.
12	Perform other related duties, as assigned by the clinical team lead/MedCo.
Emergency and Critical Incident Response:	
13	Participate in emergency drills and be prepared to respond to critical incidents and emergencies in the operating theatre.
14	Assist in resuscitation efforts and the management of life-threatening situations.
15	Maintain a calm and organized approach during emergencies, following established protocols and guidelines.
16	Report any medical adverse or near miss incidents to the clinical team lead
17	Participate in advocacy meetings with national authorities, key partners and other stakeholders where appropriate.
18	Provide input as required into SOPs and adapt where appropriate.
19	Stay updated with the latest evidence-based practices and guidelines related to perioperative care.
20	Participate in training sessions and professional development activities.
21	Collaborate effectively with other healthcare professionals, including surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses, and other ODPs, to ensure seamless patient care.
Other	
22	To supervise or manage other personnel as required under the terms of reference for the specific assignment
23	To comply with Codes of Conduct and uphold the values, standards and policies of UK-Med and the UK EMT, including those relating to safety and security, safeguarding and clinical / professional standards and practice.
24	To comply with all reasonable requests for vetting, health screening and sanctions checks and provide truthful and complete information.
25	To represent UK-Med, the UK EMT and partners / donors in a professional and appropriate manner, upholding the good reputation of the ORST and programmes you are associated with.
26	To undertake work outside of your core role as requested to support the success of the response.
27	Develop and maintain appropriate communication with the team and other relevant stakeholders.
Safeguarding	
28	Comply with and uphold UK-Med safeguarding policies (including child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, bullying and harassment) and all Codes of Conduct.
29	Report all possible breaches of policy or Codes of Conduct through the appropriate channels in a timely fashion.
General duties	

30	To ensure and promote Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in line with UK-Med's EDI Policy.
31	Comply with all financial and procurement policies and procedures, including those relating to anti-bribery, anti-terrorism, and anti-slavery.
32	Support UK-Med's environmental policies and procedures, taking personal responsibility for contributing to reducing negative environmental impacts.
33	Undertake training and comply with vetting requirements (including CRB / police checks, referencing) appropriate to the role as specified by UK-Med.
34	Treat all people including colleagues, patients and other beneficiaries, volunteers, partner staff and the general public with respect and ensure their dignity in interactions with you and UK-Med.
35	Other tasks as might be required to ensure effective delivery of UK-Med / READY / projects and programmes of work.
36	Support in the collection of data both clinical and non-clinical and the reporting of this

Person Specification

Operating Department Practitioners – Register

Qualifications / Professional Memberships		
1	Completion of an accredited Operating Department Practitioner program or equivalent.	Essential
2	Valid certification and registration as an Operating Department Practitioner.	Essential
Knowledge, Skills and Experience		
3	3 years post-registration clinical work experience	Essential
4	Knowledge of surgical procedures, sterile techniques, WHO checklist and perioperative care.	Essential
5	Strong understanding of infection control practices and health and safety protocols.	
6	Languages (French, Arabic, Spanish)	Desirable
7	Deployment in NGO/ humanitarian settings	Highly Desirable
8	Evidence of participating in training design and/or delivery	Highly Desirable
9	Cultural sensitivity and respect for diverse populations.	Essential
Personal Attributes		
10	Understanding of the moral and legal implications of humanitarian work	Essential
11	Strong understanding of Safeguarding and its importance in health	Essential
12	Able to communicate effectively with all members of a multi-disciplinary team	Essential
13	Medically fit for the context with a good understanding of the demands of a outbreak deployment	Essential
14	Experience of working within a variety of team settings and willingness to work flexible as per the demands of the deployment	Essential
15	Commitment to UK-Med’s humanitarian mandate	Essential
UK-Med Core Humanitarian Competencies		
16	Understanding humanitarian contexts and applying humanitarian principles and standards	Essential
17	Achieving Results	Essential
18	Developing and Maintaining Collaborative Relationships	Essential
19	Operating Safely and Securely at all Times	Essential
20	Managing in pressured and challenging environments	Essential
21	Demonstrating leadership	Essential

Key terms and benefits

Salary: Up to GBP £3,300 to GBP £3,600 dependant on assignment and experience.

Working hours:	UK-Med Register role, no guarantee of any work, but if deployed work will be full-time.
Safeguarding and sanctions:	<p>To ensure the suitability for the role's work with both adults and children, and/or work within regulated environments (CAA, MRHA) an assessment of suitability for this work will be completed which will include DBS / police checks. For work in some countries or funded by some donors we will also run a comprehensive sanctions / suitable person check.</p> <p>Suitability for this work is a condition of employment.</p>
Health and medical:	<p>Health clearance as 'fit to deploy' by our occupational health provider is an essential requirement for deployment in this role.</p> <p>You must complete course of all required vaccinations to be cleared for deployment.</p>
Professional requirements:	HCPC (Health and Care Professionals Council) registration or equivalent national registering body
Term of contract:	Register members who deploy will be offered fixed-term contracts. The duration will depend on the requirements of the response, but most responses are between 4 and 12 weeks.

UK-MED

Building a world
prepared to help