

## **MSF FAQ**

- **What is the minimum availability to go out on mission with MSF?**  
*Minimum 6-12 month commitment depending on position (except specialists)*
- **I am a student can I go out as an intern with MSF?**  
*We don't send students, interns, medical students, etc*
- **Do I need to be a Canadian Citizen to apply with MSF Canada?**  
*No, only permanent residency is required (because you're signing a Canadian work contract and need to come and go from the country over a prolonged period of time).*
- **Are foreign trained MDs accepted?**  
*Yes with some conditions such as a letter of good standing and recent relevant clinical experience (clinical gap of less than 2 years).*
- **Do you send dentists, paramedics, occupational therapists and practical nurses?**  
*As an international movement MSF is not recruiting these professions (But Yes for: Registered nurses + nurse practitioners)*
- **Can I go on mission with my family or as a couple for my first assignment?**  
*No you can't, but this is sometimes possible during later missions.*
- **How long does the recruitment process take?**  
*The recruitment process can take 4-6 months total from moment of application to placement, therefore apply 4 months before you would be available.*
- **How much notice can MSF offer to me before my departure date for my mission?**  
*MSF can offer up to 4 weeks for a confirmed field placement, no more.*
- **Is there an age limit to work as an MSF fieldworker?**  
*At MSF there is no age limit. As long as you are medically fit to leave – this will be evaluated through a medical assessment which stays confidential.*
- **How much will I get paid/What do I get paid! How much?**  
*The salary for the first 12 months of field work with MSF, regardless of your position, is 1850\$ gross per month. After these 12 months your previous experience is considered and your salary will become graduated.*
- **How important is it that I speak another language besides English?**  
*In Canada and internationally there is a large pool of unilingual English speaking candidates. Speaking French is considered particularly interesting since 60% of our projects are located in French-speaking countries in Africa. Arabic is another useful language which makes candidates stand out.*

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- **What training do people get before mission?**

*MSF provides a pre departure course and/or self learning material before a mission along with extensive briefings once their mission and project are identified. This training is mostly a general approach to preparing someone to work with MSF. After a first mission a fieldworker would have access to in house training and/or support in getting outside training as well (e.g language training, etc.)*

- **I'm doctor but I don't have any/very little tropical medicine experience. Is this a big issue?**

*Having exposure to tropical medicine during your training through global health placements/tropical medicine training is considered an asset. That being said, MSF has protocols and guidelines which draw from its 40 years of experience and has a standard approach to dealing with many situations and diseases. Physicians will not be asked to reinvent the wheel but rather to act as the framework and teach, transfer knowledge. They will do **some** clinical work but this will not be the bulk of their work.*

- **For doctors do I really have to wait 2 years post residency before I can apply?**

*MSF has recently modified this rule. In most cases we are looking for **1 year experience** for family medicine specialties. Bear in mind though that this 1 year has to be relevant and you will need to have had some exposure to either Northern Canada or global health in your training. For some specializations that have longer residencies, we are actually looking at profiles right after residency: full ER specialists, GAS Pool, Inf. Disease specialists, pediatricians etc. (this is not MSF Canada's move but rather movement wide).*

- **May I request placement in a specific country?**

*It is usually not possible to honor specific placement requests. MSF asks all field workers to be flexible and willing to serve where they are needed most. However, special skills and/or restrictions are taken into consideration in each placement. Once a position is offered, the final decision to accept a post is made by the field worker.*

- **What if I am injured or become ill?**

*All field workers must be aware of the risks and dangers of serving with MSF in the field. They must understand that they have no claim against the organization for any injury or illness acquired while participating in any travel or activity conducted by, in support of, or under the auspices of MSF. However, MSF maintains insurance coverage on behalf of its field workers that provide some direct benefits to injured or sick field workers (including appropriate care and, if necessary, repatriation) or their beneficiaries. The scope of this insurance is explained prior to departure.*