

Malawi Link

International Committee Royal College of Pathologists

The College has set aside funds to cover travel and subsistence for haematology and microbiology clinicians and scientists to visit the College of Medicine (COM), Blantyre, Malawi.

The Ministry of Health in Malawi wish to enhance the integration of clinical and laboratory services throughout Malawi. To achieve this there is a need to train and appoint clinical laboratory consultants. The purpose of the proposed visits is to assist in improving communication at the clinical-laboratory interface by raising awareness of the importance of the laboratory in clinical care. Visits will also help to develop pathology post graduate training in all clinical specialities and the setting up of specific training for pathology specialists.

The Scottish Office already supports regular visits by Histopathologists to undertake diagnostic and teaching work at the COM, Blantyre.

Overall responsibility for the scheme will be with the Post Graduate Dean's office at COM, Blantyre.

Professor John Chisi's (Head of Haematology) and Dr Katherine Gray (Head of Microbiology) will coordinate accommodation and timetabling for visitors in their specialities.

The administrator for the RCPATH international committee, currently Adobea Akuffo, will maintain a database of interested personnel and will coordinate submission of the CVs of prospective visitors to Blantyre, and timetabling of visits and travel arrangements.

The proposed timetable for visits includes

- Attendance at clinical morning handover sessions to provide relevant advise on clinical problems
- Daily laboratory reviews
- Teaching of registrars on the post graduate MMed course
- Teaching of BMSs on their BSc course
- Undergraduate teaching at morning hand over sessions

There may also be opportunities for teaching on medical CPD update courses, assisting with "grand round" presentations, acting as external examiners and working with MMed registrars to develop clinical algorithms for investigation of common clinical haematological problems or appropriate microbiological testing.

Visits to Blantyre will be of 3-4 weeks duration and it is likely that teaching programmes and algorithm development will be initiated and developed during visits by different haematologists/microbiologists as a continuing programme.

Visitors will not be registered with the Malawi Medical Council so direct clinical care will not be undertaken.

A report should be submitted to the RCPATH International Committee after each visit to provide continuity for subsequent visitors, to alert them to any pitfalls or problems encountered and to enable RCPATH to assess the success of the scheme.

If you would like to be part of this link with Malawi please email the attached "Expression of Interest Form" with a CV to Ms Adobea Akuffo at Adobea.Akuffo@rcpath.org

Expression of Interest Form

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

CONTACT ADDRESS

QUALIFICATIONS:

CURRENT APPOINTMENT:

WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT MALAWI?

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH A CV TO Adobea.akuffo@rcpath.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I need a Visa?

Below is outlined current Malawi visa regulations

Malawi, Passport/Visa

It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they meet the visa requirements for entry into Malawi. The following information is for guidance only. Up to date information can be found on http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/158/passport_visa/Africa/Malawi.html#

Passport/Visa:

Country	Passport Required	Visa Required	Return Ticket Required
British	Yes	No	Yes
Australian	Yes	No	Yes
Canadian	Yes	No	Yes
USA	Yes	No	Yes
Other EU	Yes	Yes/1	Yes
Japanese	Yes	No	Yes

Passports: Passport valid for at least six months beyond date of intended departure required by all.

Visas: Required by all except the following:

- (a) nationals of countries referred to in the chart above, except 1. nationals of Austria, Czech republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia, who *do* need a visa
- (b) nationals of Commonwealth countries (except Cameroon, India, Nigeria and Pakistan who *do* require a visa);
- (c) nationals of Iceland, Israel, Madagascar, Norway, San Marino and Zimbabwe;
- (d) foreign nationals in transit who are continuing their journey by the same or connecting aircraft to a third country within 24 hours. Permission must be obtained to leave the airport, however.

Types of visa and cost: *Single-entry:* £45. *Multiple-entry:* £70 (up to six months); £90 (up to one year). *Transit:* £32.

Will I have to take annual leave to visit Malawi?

There are a variety of ways in which leave can be taken depending on personal circumstances and individual Trust policies. The BMA web site (www.bma.org.uk/careers/working-abroad/broadeningyourhorizons.jsp) offers advice on how to obtain leave for schemes such as this.

What Health precautions will be needed?

Malarial prophylaxis is essential. The web site www.welltravelled.co.uk gives advice about other health matters. Participants of the scheme will be responsible for organising their own travel health requirements including malarial prophylaxis and vaccinations prior to travel.

What is the currency in Malawi?

The currency in Malawi is the Kwacha - it can only be bought in the country. There are exchange desks at the airport. Current rate of exchange is £1 = 228Malawian Kwacha.

Are there tourist opportunities in Malawi?

Malawi has many opportunities for tourist activities. Visit www.malawitourism.com for information about safaris, water sports based on Lake Malawi and other tourist activities.

Is Malawi safe?

Below is the current Foreign Office advise but visit www.fco.gov.uk for up- to- date information

Travel Summary

- Driving can be hazardous. Drive carefully, avoid travel after dark and in public minibuses. Always wear seat belts. Lock your doors and keep windows closed.
- It is recommended that you carry a photocopy of your passport and visa with you at all times.
- Most visits to Malawi are trouble-free. The main problems for which British nationals required consular assistance in Malawi in 2008 were loss or theft of passports.
- There is a low threat from terrorism. But you should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks which could be in public areas, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.
- We recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance. You should check any exclusions, and that your policy covers you for all the activities you want to undertake. See the General (Insurance) section of this advice and [Travel Insurance](#) for more details.
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Can I use the internet/my mobile phone?

There is internet access in Malawi but WiFi is unusual. The internet can be very slow and even simple tasks such as picking up emails can be a lengthy procedure. Mobile phones are widely used and UK mobiles work well or alternatively a Malawi SIM card can be purchased on arrival.

The Royal College of Pathologists gives no warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of this information.