



MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS
INTERNATIONAL

FAQ Crewing MVI

What happens once I have applied?

Your data will be added to our platform and you will receive a welcome e-mail. When we have open positions, we will reach out to everyone who matches the needed time frame and role. You do not need to do anything until you hear from us regarding a possible placement. Please refrain from sending additional e-mails asking about the status of your application.

What requirements do I need to fulfil to become a volunteer?

The requirements vary between the positions and locations. The requirements regarding the professional experience for the different roles are explained in the application form. As you will be working outside of the typical framework of a clinic or doctors office, you also need to bring a set of additional skills. This includes being fluent in English (and other languages are an asset), physical and mental resilience and the ability to work in a dynamic, international team within a constantly changing environment.

What documents do I need?

If we have confirmed you for a position, you need to provide a list of documents, so please be ready to present them to us: a CV in English, proof of your qualifications, proof of vaccinations against Covid-19 and MMR*, and a photo of your ID or passport.

*If you do not have proof of the vaccinations, you will need to do an antibody test with your doctor and provide the results to us.

What does the work with MVI entail? (and what are we not)

Working at the sites/projects is very different to their usual work in a practice or clinic setting. We serve patients who are often in exceptional personal situations and often require a high degree of empathy regarding their situation. We also require an understanding of different cultural backgrounds when dealing with our patients. MVI does not see itself as a helper or rescuer in an emergency, which would mean belittling the patients, but rather we meet the patients at eye level and support them in their situation with our medical work. The conditions in which we work are specific due to the local circumstances, so it may be that you have to treat patients directly on the street.

How will I be insured while volunteering with MVI?

We as MVI have taken out insurance for our volunteers. The package includes personal liability insurance, accident and travel health insurance, including emergency medical assistance. Please note: it does not include professional liability insurance, if you require

this to work you are responsible yourself to organise it. **To volunteer with us, you will have to sign up for an assignment membership which costs 120 € per year.** In exchange, you will be protected by the aforementioned insurance. Of course, you will not have to stay a member once your assignment is over but being a member does have additional advantages like events for members and a right to be involved in certain decisions.

Do I need to find my own accommodation?

That depends on the project. In Serbia and Greece, we offer a volunteer accommodation with shared rooms where you can stay in exchange for a small rent. Of course, you are free to decide if you want to live in the shared accommodation or look for your own. As the space is limited, there might be individual cases where we are unable to provide accommodation. In Bulgaria we are unable to offer any accommodation for now. However, our team in Bulgaria is happy to support you to find a place to stay during your assignment.

What kind of other expenses can I expect?

Since MVI is exclusively dependent on donations to be able to carry out the work on site, we are unfortunately not able to support the extraordinary work of the volunteers financially. You are responsible for all expenses surrounding your volunteer assignment. This includes paying for your travel expenses and meals abroad in addition to the insurance and rent. Everything directly needed for your work in the project will be covered by us. This includes, among other things, the personnel costs for the application process of all volunteers and coordinators, public relations, financial management, and the fees for coordination and translation.

Will I need to provide my own equipment?

No, we provide all work materials on site, including scrubs, all disposable materials and stethoscopes.

Are there any regulations the work in the projects is based on?

Before volunteers arrive, we send them a volunteer handbook, which must be signed and returned to the crewing team before arrival. This handbook contains, among other things, the Code of Conduct as well as manuals and policies which give you an overview of the rules of conduct during the assignment.

What do I do if I am no longer available for the specified period of time?

In order to guarantee the patients continuous medical support, advance planning is essential for us. Once you have confirmed your assignment, we add you to our schedule and expect you to be a part of our team for the agreed time frame. Therefore, we ask you to contact our crewing team as soon as possible about changes to the desired assignment.

Can I speak to someone before my assignment to find out more about the project?

We offer monthly online events for all new volunteers in which you can go into direct contact with the local coordination to ask questions and get impressions of the work on site. If you are scheduled to volunteer with us, it will be mandatory for you to participate in one of these meetings. In Germany there are also regional groups in several large cities, led by former volunteers, with whom you can exchange ideas. In addition, you will be contacted directly by the on-site coordinator shortly before their assignment.

Are there other ways than volunteering to support MVI?

You can join our online community or, if you are based in Germany, join one of our regional groups. Furthermore, as we are a small NGO, being able to do our work relies on donations. You can support us by donating, organising a fundraiser or becoming a permanent donor to increase our ability to plan long term (<https://medical-volunteers.org/donate-now/>).