

Getting your first fieldwork experience

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This session

What do we mean by 'fieldwork'?

What are the challenges?

Practical tips.

What do we mean by fieldwork?

What are your thoughts?

'Fieldwork' in primary research.

'Field' epidemiology.

'Field' as in 'somewhere else'.

'Getting your hands dirty'? 'Frontline'?

Main focus in this session on 'somewhere else' and 'frontline'.

What are the challenges?

Normally:

- why would they employ you rather than someone from that country,
- why would they employ you if they don't know you can handle that setting?
- How do you find opportunities (from a distance)?

Now:

- All of the above plus COVID and travel restrictions (including Summer project limitations).

Why will they employ you in that country?

You have a skill that is needed:

- It's your home country, you know the language, culture, infrastructure, systems;
- You have a skill which is in short supply;
- You have particular experience or expertise.



Serengeti, Tanzania, photo Hu Chen on Unsplash



And without evidence you can handle setting?

No easy way round this. Normally:

- Summer project;
- Cost-neutral volunteering;
- Roles which require some overseas work;
- Just go?
- Use clinical skills (if you have them) to open doors.

What can you do?

Be realistic on timing - take the long view and work towards goal.

- Build your networks;
- Build your experience;
- Hone your language skills;
- Seek opportunities that develop and evidence inter-cultural sensitivity (wherever you are);
- Expand your activities beyond your 'day job'.

Finding opportunities (from a distance)



Useful
websites

Key
organisations

The country
where you want
to work

Possible
contacts

Particular
challenges

Current key
topics

Future
issues

Where to find out more

Moodle:

- Career and study options;
- Finding and applying for jobs/study;
- Recordings of careers workshops and events;

LinkedIn:

- [View our mini screencasts](#);

LSHTM Connect (alumni community);

GoinGlobal ([link on Moodle](#));

Each other!