

Plymouth University MSc in Global and Remote Healthcare

Originally developed for Doctors travelling to support the British Antarctic Survey Unit, this course broadened its scope to include the provision of healthcare in other areas and accept other healthcare professionals for training. This brings great strength to the course as perspectives from different specialities adds a great dimension to both practical and theoretical sessions. As well as BAS Doctors, candidates include medics working for international NGOs, in expedition medical capacities and those working in disaster management or long-term healthcare abroad.

One of the most recent developments has been the inclusion of a 30-credit module in Global Health. This has been one of the most interesting modules, enabling students to understand the impact expeditions have on local populations along with developing a greater understanding of the more intricate aspects relating to sustainable development goals and global health inequalities. These areas are not generally the first things considered when developing expedition skills, however, they are clearly linked to the expedition medics role in a variety of ways.

The reflective practice module enables students to focus on areas where they have developed and learned from situations in the field. These include situations that went well and others that, perhaps, could have been approached differently. This is becoming a fundamental part of regular healthcare practice and to see this practiced in remote medical care is really encouraging.

The main practical component of this MSc is completed through a remote placement of the students organising. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the course, the placement variety is extensive. Due to the diverse nature of roles candidates are likely to work in, this course does not major on some of the more basic expedition skills, such as navigation, camp-craft or basic medical scenarios, however, students are provided with basic levels of understanding. Should their chosen area of remote medicine dictate the need for improved competency, they would be directed towards more focused, external secondary training.

Overall the broad scope of this course makes it ideal for anyone planning long-term, overseas work in remote locations of all kinds. From a personal perspective, it is very well taught by a faculty with immense experience across a wide platform, and a passion for global and remote healthcare.

Written by James Moore
MSc Global and Remote Healthcare student
Director
Travel Health Consultancy