



# LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Working with MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES you will establish a laboratory facility in a health centre or hospital. You will be conducting medical laboratory analyses, with responsibility for quality control and requirement calculations. You will also be providing further training for the national laboratory staff and supervising resistance studies.

## Take the challenge – work with MSF

During your mission you will experience challenging working situations and living conditions that will connect you with the team and the local people. You will work with basic tools, share amenities with your colleagues, including computers, showers and refrigerators. Improvisational skills and independence will be essential, as will the ability to remain calm and capable of working constructively in a team even under strained circumstances. This is because you will be working on the ground with a small, international, multidisciplinary team and in close collaboration with your local colleagues. You will learn a lot: about the people in your project and about yourself.

## To become a laboratory technician with MSF you will need ...

- successfully completed training as a laboratory technician
- at least two years of professional experience
- knowledge of the techniques of diagnosing tropical diseases, HIV/Aids and tuberculosis
- experience travelling or working in a 'developing' country
- fluency in English; knowledge of French, Arabic and/or Russian an advantage
- at least nine to twelve months availability

*"The work in my three projects ranged from having sole responsibility for carrying out all laboratory tests and the management of four smaller laboratories, to directing a large laboratory with standards almost matching those in Europe. My main jobs alongside laboratory organisation and quality control were data collection, materials administration, writing reports and, first and foremost, providing basic and further training for my national colleagues. Their motivation and desire to learn really inspired me. The biggest challenge I had to face was in my first project. In the laboratory, the buck stopped with me. After having worked in Germany, this was something completely new for me which was anything but easy. But it did help me find out just what I was capable of."*

Claudia Stephan, Malawi, Southern Sudan and Uzbekistan

*"What I really liked about my project in Magdanly was the fact that the laboratory work really connected me with the patients. The doctors often visited the laboratory and told us about the patients' symptoms. We would then sit down together to work out which tests to administer or what I should keep a particular eye out for under the microscope. In this way the laboratory analyses became part of the treatment. And my Turkmen colleagues were grateful to me for introducing them to certain techniques which made their work easier. These were usually just minor changes, such as adjusting the pH value of blood smears in order to improve the colouring, which made it much easier for us to assess them under the microscope."* Astrid Stedtler, Turkmenistan

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Project work opens up whole new realms of experience: both professional and personal.

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There you can also download an application form.

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