



OT NURSE

With MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES you will often be working in crisis or war zones in which no other surgical care is available. You will prepare the operating theatres and will be responsible for the equipment, surgical instruments and adherence to hygiene protocols. During the operation you will monitor the condition of the patients and are responsible for their pre- and post-operative care. You will guide the operating team as well as occasionally providing assistance to the surgeon. However, you will mostly manage the work of your national colleagues, whom you will train or direct. You may also be required to take on other tasks such as the medical care of patients.

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 an OT nurse with MSF you will need ...

- completed training in OT nursing or wide-ranging professional experience as a nurse in an operating theatre context
- at least two years of professional experience in different surgical fields (visceral and accident surgery, knowledge of midwifery and gynaecology are an advantage)
- experience travelling or working in a 'developing' country
- willingness to work in conditions of social and/or political instability
- fluency in English; knowledge of French, Arabic and/or Russian an advantage
- six to twelve months availability

"Unlike in Germany, where I only ever see the patients already anaesthetised in the operating theatre, in Amman I had very close contact with our patients. Every morning I took part in the rounds and sometimes also accompanied the psychologist. Our patients had been seriously wounded in attacks in Iraq. We brought them to our surgical project in Jordan, where we had to treat them for weeks or even months. They told me awful stories, which moved me very deeply. I found it helpful to talk with my colleagues in the evenings and to work out ways of bringing a little happiness into our patients' lives. Being part of their recovery and witnessing their gratitude showed me time and again how important our work is. For me, that was the biggest motivator of all."

Judith Herrmann, Jordan and Haiti and other places

"I found the team work and the warm and professional manner in which we dealt with each other to be very enriching. For example, I worked with surgeons and anaesthetists from India, Japan and France and got to know a lot of different ways of working. At the same time I was able to pass my own knowledge on. I gave my local colleagues training in how to use the instruments and gave them guidance during the operations. I only needed to be at the operating table myself during complicated operations. I was also responsible for organising the operations, which, with the material we had at our disposal, was something of a challenge. I went down to the local market to find tools to replace missing instruments, and I had cushions made by a local car repair workshop for the patients to lie on." Markus Heinbach, Indonesia and Nigeria

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

INTERESTED? Then please go to
➔ www.aerzte-ohne-grenzen.de/mitarbeiten to find out more.
There you can also download an application form.

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DONATIONS

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