

# Post-graduate global health training opportunities from the trainee perspective: What and when?



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## Introduction

There is an increasing recognition of the role of UK doctors in contributing to global health but no clear training path leading to a global health career<sup>(1,2)</sup>. Junior doctor training may be too inflexible for juniors to take time out for global health training<sup>(3)</sup>.

Global health work cross-cuts all specialities, but it is unclear whether different specialities require a different approach to delivering global health training. Trainees' views on the kind of global health training they would like and when they wish to pursue it have not previously been evaluated.

We wished to assess the following in a group of selected trainees with an interest in global health:

- popularity of different training opportunities in global health,
- if intended speciality plays a role in type of training sought,
- intended stage of training and length of time spent time overseas.

## Methods

An online structured questionnaire was used to examine career intentions and training needs of respondents. The survey was distributed through global health and junior doctor mailing lists and by word of mouth. A printed version of the survey was distributed at a junior doctor conference on working abroad. Responses were encouraged by offering free entry in to a prize draw.

247 trainees from a broad range of specialities completed the survey. 79% of respondents were interested in long term development work and 84% of respondents wished to pursue a long-term career in the UK. This gave a power of 80% to detect a moderate (0.25) effect size.

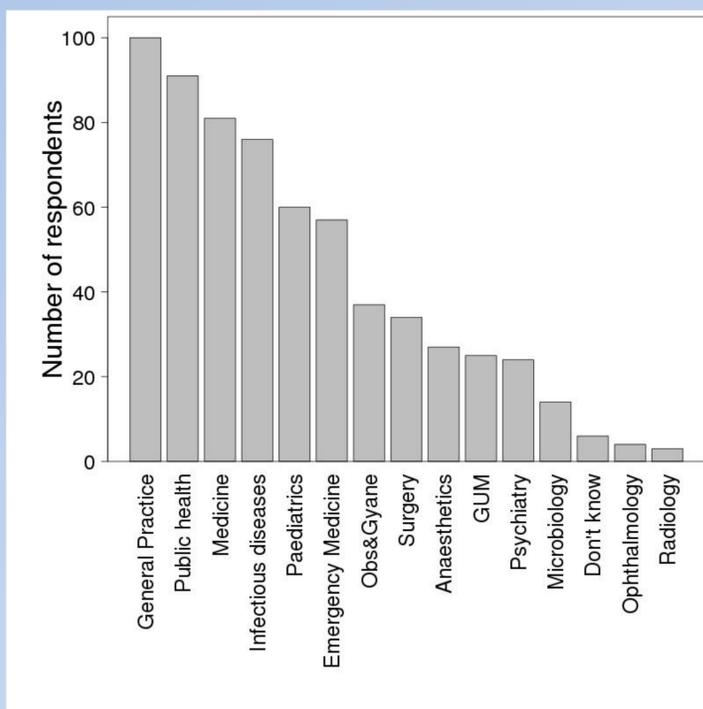


Figure 1 showing the intended specialities of survey respondents.

## Results

247 participants completed the survey, 167 junior doctors in training, 79 medical students and 21 post-CCT (either General Practitioner Trainees at the end of their training or Specialist Registrars awaiting a consultant post). After weighting for expected years at each stage of training there was a predominance of F1 doctors and specialist registrars post-CCT (chi-square test,  $p < 0.05$ ). Intended specialities are shown in figure 1.

### Popularity of global health training opportunities

Results are shown in figure 2. By far the most popular option is work abroad. The second most popular option is joint CCT in global health with another speciality.

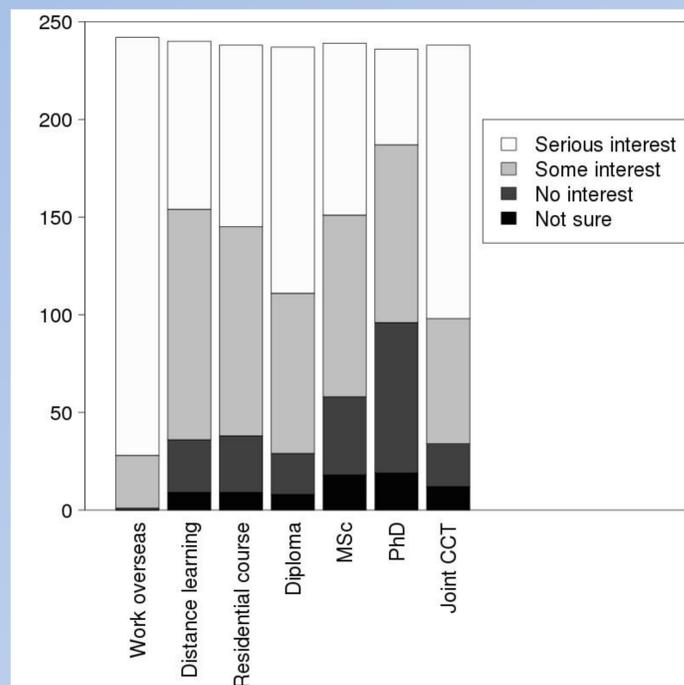


Figure 2 showing the popularity of various global health training opportunities. Respondents were asked to rate each choice on a 3 point Likert scale. CCT = certificate of completion of training.

### Influence of speciality on training opportunities sought

One way analysis of variance was performed for popularity of training opportunities across all specialities. Equal variance between groups was assumed and we corrected for repeated measures given that participants were able to select more than one intended speciality. There was a significant interaction between degree of interest and all possible training opportunities

by speciality (DOF = 12,  $F = 3.0$ ,  $p = < 0.05$ ). To investigate within which training opportunities intended speciality was significant, we went on to perform ANOVA for each training opportunity as shown in table 2. Significance values did not survive correction for multiple comparisons.

Training Opportunity	DOF	F	p value
Working overseas	12	0.85	0.6
Distance learning course	12	1.1	0.3
<b>Residential programme</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.03 ★</b>
Global Health Diploma	12	1.7	0.07
Global Health MSc	12	1.7	0.06
<b>Global Health PhD</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.04 ★</b>
<b>Joint CCT</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.01 ★</b>

### Intentions for time spent abroad

Results are shown in Figure 3.

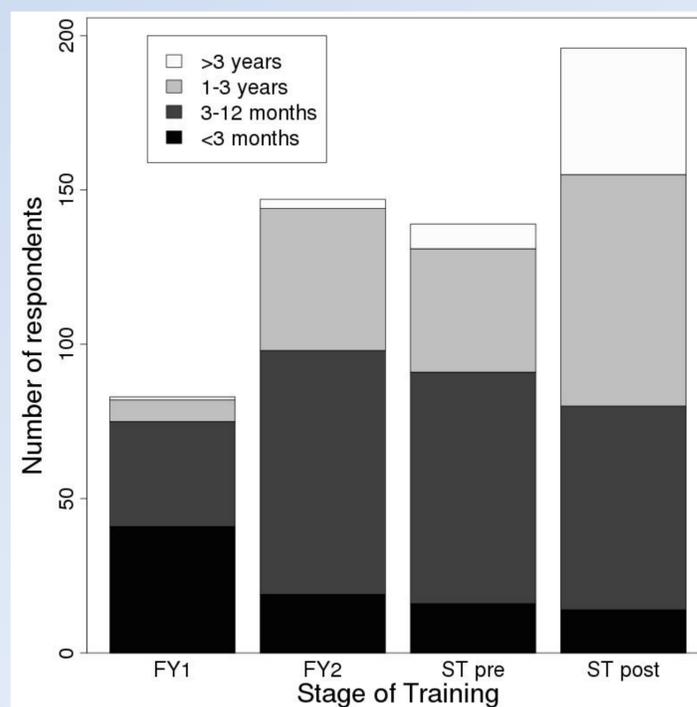


Figure 3 showing at what stage of training and for how long respondents intend to spend time training abroad in a resource-poor setting. FY = Foundation Year. ST = Speciality Trainee. Pre and post refer to pre-membership and post-membership respectively.

## Conclusions

- There is demand for a variety of global health training opportunities among interested trainees
- The possibility to obtain joint CCT in global health is popular
- Trainees in different specialities may differ in their preference of global health training
- Trainees wish to spend short periods of time abroad early in their training and longer periods later in their training

## References

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2. Brown C, Martineau F, Spry E, Yudkin JS. Postgraduate training in global health: ensuring UK doctors can contribute to health in resource-poor countries (in press). Clinical Medicine.
3. Whitty, C. J. M. (2007). Global health partnerships. BMJ, 334, 595-596.