Using your nursing skills to volunteer, as a student or a qualified graduate, is an amazing opportunity to help others, travel to interesting places and challenge yourself professionally. There are a huge number of international opportunities for nursing and midwifery volunteers at Projects Abroad.

Nursing volunteers possess unique skills which mean they can contribute in many different settings. You could be working in hospitals, clinics, orphanages, centres for people with a disability or care centres, which are all located in some of the poorest countries in the world. Our nursing volunteers operate in a diversity of settings: from bustling African hospitals, to sleepy rural Indian clinics, to Nepalese primary schools.

Volunteering in a developing country gives a unique cultural and work experience. It is a constructive and giving role from which the volunteer gains skills, perspective and, often, direction. If you are thinking of volunteering your skills in the developing world, then Projects Abroad can find a place for you.

PROJECTS ABROAD
Recruiting volunteers from around the world, Projects Abroad operates volunteer programmes in 27 countries. The projects are designed to be safe, sustainable and worthwhile.

Supported by our full time local staff, volunteers have a great support network with the opportunity to use their initiative and enjoy a unique constructive, cultural and educational experience.

Projects Abroad was founded in 1992 and has supported over 30,000 volunteers in local communities, working on programmes such as teaching, human rights, and healthcare.

THE ROLE OF THE VOLUNTEER
Your role will vary according to your destination, placement, experience and interests. We encourage you to use your initiative and be proactive, this will ensure you get a great degree of involvement in the care of the patients.

Every setting is different in terms of the supervision and guidance, the conditions of the patients, the resources available and the expectations of you. Your role may be very hands on, or more observational. You would never be expected to do something that you were uncomfortable with and we will take care in placing you at the most appropriate setting.

Many nursing volunteers decide to work in non-clinical settings such as an orphanage or rehabilitation centre where their training in healthcare, as well as compassion and enthusiasm for helping out, can be put to good use.

These volunteers often feel they can take on more responsibility and have more influence at these settings. It is also possible to combine these placements, please talk to us about the options open to you.

Nursing and Midwifery in the Developing world

- Improve your understanding of global health challenges
- Take responsibility for improving the care of vulnerable people
- Learn new techniques and share your knowledge
- Assist under-resourced healthcare settings
- Immerse yourself in fascinating cultures
- Gain intercultural communication skills
- Work alongside local professionals
- Work with new medical challenges

CASE STUDY 1
Nausori Health Centre and Maternity Clinic, Fiji

The Nausori centre is a regional out-patient facility, and it contains an important maternity clinic for the local people. The health centre is one of the busiest on the eastern coast of Viti Levu, Fiji’s main island. It accepts up to 100 patients each day. Located 45 minutes from Suva, Nausori is an ideal place for experiencing the challenges of more rural healthcare. It has a triaging station, family planning unit, maternal and child health clinic and a community outreach service.

Megan, Newcastle, NSW

I didn’t feel like a tourist in Nepal, being a volunteer allows you to skip that and you become a part of the culture. I got to see how a health system works in a developing country, having the opportunity to witness surgeries, be part of deliveries, see a women’s health camp and teach first aid to school children, just to name a few. I made great friendships with the other nurses and will remember their hospitality and kindness forever.
In Ghana I exchanged knowledge, methods and ideas, working very closely with doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, physiotherapists, pharmacists and dieticians, who were very kind; engaging with and educating me. I also helped to operate medical outreach programmes at Wakomm and Akatuah villages, where we assessed and treated the entire population for things like infections, wounds, malaria, worms, malnourishment and dehydration, many of these people were without access to medical care due to their location or its cost.

A Day in the Life
Our volunteers are never in the destination country alone. You will work alongside other volunteers and usually have a house mate in your host family or shared apartment. Working five days a week, you have the weekends free to explore the country. We want to create a balance between a positive contribution, a learning experience and gaining a true understanding and love of the country you work in.

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PROJECT FACTS
DURATION: Anything between one and six months.
START DATES: Flexible, volunteers can start at any time.
WHO: The programmes suit students and practicing professionals.
ACCOMMODATION: With host families wherever possible, shared apartments in Cambodia and Vietnam.
COST: From AU$2095/NZ$2545
INCLUDED: Accommodation, food, full travel, medical and indemnity insurance, 24/7 in country support, project development costs, pre-departure support and advice.
EXCLUDED: Flights, visa, vaccinations, spending money.

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CASE STUDY 2
Mwananyamala Regional Hospital, Tanzania:
The Mwananyamala Hospital, is a large government run hospital. It has both inpatients and out-patients departments, spread across its many departments. It averages 1500 patients a day, with 70 to 90 births. It has 3 maternity wards, with a total of 21 beds. In recent years, Save the Children has funded a new neo-natal unit, but the hospital still struggles to provide adequate care for the women and babies in need. Projects Abroad Nursing volunteers assist in all areas and operations of the hospital, and provide much needed support to local staff.

CASE STUDY 3
Manamudurai Leprosy Mission, India:
The Leprosy Mission in Manamudurai is one project where nursing volunteers can be a big help. It is located one hour from the famous temple-city of Madurai, and is a much needed rural centre for the treatment of leprosy. The mission is quite small, and the medical staff are friendly and helpful, and glad of assistance from volunteers. Work includes visits to surrounding villages to identify and treat new leprosy cases, as well as the management of current patients. The mission involves aspects of dermatology, physiotherapy, psychotherapy, surgery and traditional medicine.