

Global Health Education in the UK

The UK and Ireland has a vast array of institutions and courses for health professionals who want to expand their global health knowledge. **Gareth Lewis** highlights the key players in this ever-growing field...

The United Kingdom has one of the highest GDPs in the world. Through hundreds of years of exploration and empire, we cast our net throughout civilisation. While our past may have some glorious and some not so glorious aspects, it is acknowledged that our roving eye for countries to conquer gave us vast resources that helped us arrive at the stage of development we are at today.

Since we lost our taste for empire and colonialism, it has occurred to many that our plundering of both the natural resources and populations of these countries gives a debt towards them.

Although we may have continued to assert ourselves inappropriately, since the end of the Second World War we have also faced these responsibilities in numerous ways. The open-door policy operated towards all commonwealth countries in the post-war years allowed countless people from the Caribbean, the subcontinent and beyond to seek a better life within our shores. During Idi Amin's reign of terror in Uganda, the UK government flew tens of thousands of Ugandan Asians out of the country to avoid persecution. Although the recruitment of skilled workers or 'Brain-Drain' can be justifiably put forward as motivation for some of these policies, there was also a genuine sense of giving something back to our former colonies.

Another way we have strived to give something back to those countries is through our academic talent, our universities and the intellectual resources we have at our disposal. Research into diseases and problems that plight countries worldwide has been something UK Universities have done for decades. As our

own society has been freed from the burden of infectious disease with comprehensive sanitation, vaccination and public health medicine, our academic institutions have increasingly focused on those conditions which effect Central and Southern America, Asia, the Subcontinent and most of all Africa. We even had one of the first government departments - DfID - specifically set up to focus our efforts to improve health and prosperity in the developing world.

The cynics will point out that all of us like to travel. Research into these areas invariably involves visiting the countries involved, catching the magnificent beauty and sites that they hold along the way. But the decade just past saw an unprecedented public interest in development, saving and improving the lives of those not as fortunate to be born in a high-income society with a well developed health system. Medical students and junior doctors were no different, with 5 intercalated BSc's set up addressing various aspects of International or Global Health, and three more in the pipeline to start within the next two years.

But what about those who want to take their interest further after graduation? If you genuinely want to devote some of your time and skills towards improving health in these nations, then you must be prepared and have an understanding of the environment and conditions you will be dealing with. So overleaf is a brief, basic skeleton map of the postgraduate courses at the key Global Health research units throughout the UK. You will find more detailed lists of the courses available at some of these institutions throughout this issue, and links easily enough through the Alma Mater website at our education pages.

Centre for International Public Health policy, Edinburgh

Several Masters and short courses including Global Health and Public Policy, infectious disease and global health and global health and anthropology

<http://www.health.ed.ac.uk/CIPHP/postgraduate/>



Nuffield Centre for International health and Development,

MSc, Diploma and certificates in International health, along with some management and Policy MSc and PhD opportunities

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/lihs/nuffield/>



Offers a wide range of Global Health related short courses, diplomas, masters and PHDs. Some of its courses relate to speciality - in particular paediatrics, infectious disease and reproductive health.

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/lstm/>

School of Public Health, Oxford:

MSc in Global Health Science

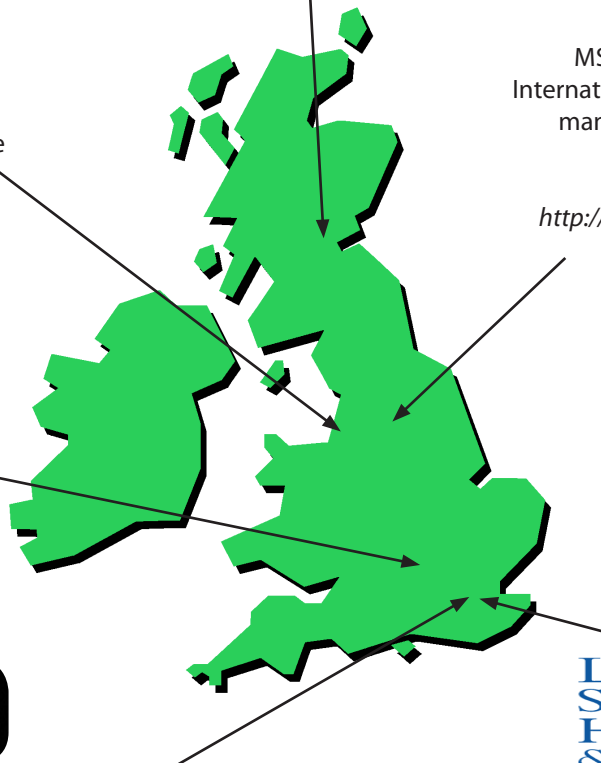
www.publichealth.ox.ac.uk/gradstu



Centre for International Health and Development,

As well as PhD/MD options, CIHD has several MSc, Diplomas and short courses of the same qualification including Global Health and Development, International Child Health and a TropED version of the former where students can study modules across European partner institutions

www.ucl.ac.uk/cihd



LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE

Multiple short courses, masters and research degrees in all aspects of International health, epidemiology and tropical medicine

<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/>