

BKL Walawalkar Hospital, Dervan, India

Opportunities for UK anaesthetic resident doctor post CT2 or post FRCA (two posts). Applications are invited for post CT2 or post ST4 resident anaesthetists (OOPT/OOPE) to act as visiting educational fellow in anaesthesia and intensive care at the Bhaktashreshtha Kamlakar Laxman Walawalkar Hospital, Dervan, Maharashtra, in India.

B.K.L. Walawalkar Hospital is situated at Dervan, the midpoint of the Mumbai to Goa highway which stretches over 375 miles. The Hospital has successfully transformed a village called Dervan in the state of Maharashtra, close to the western coast of India, into an epicentre of socio-economic development. There has been a steady rise in visitors from abroad visiting the campus either to participate in the hospital activities or simply witness its development. The unprecedented change of Dervan through inclusiveness is for all to see, achieved by empowering through skills training and employable education. This is against the backdrop of appeasement into exploitation by temporary gratification.

Shree Vithalrao Joshi Charities Trust, the parent organisation of the state-of-the-art Hospital, also houses an English medium school, a nursing college, a physiotherapy college and a rural medical college along with an Olympic standard sports facility all under one roof in over an area of 150 acres. A team of doctors and allied health care professionals from the UK have been visiting this hospital for a week, once a year for the past twenty years. These visiting doctors were impressed by the gigantic and honest vision in health care of the Hospital, as also the infrastructure, cleanliness and expertise available in such a rural area. They have rendered their services to the Hospital with the aim of providing a team including general practice, general surgery, orthopaedics, anaesthetics, and ophthalmology and urology.

The 810-beds Hospital has inpatient and outpatient facilities along with a busy emergency department in close proximity of the highway. The Hospital has 12 main theatres, a step-down recovery unit, and an intensive care unit where more complex medical and surgical patients are managed. In addition, there is now a large medical and nursing school and several community health projects where staff and students are keen to share knowledge and engage in education and training opportunities.

The services provided by this organisation has been of enormous benefit to the local agricultural community, who otherwise would find it almost impossible to get affordable advice and treatment. This is now considered to be a safe and supportive hospital, particularly suitable for anaesthetists to gain valuable experience in the evolving field of anaesthesia.

Detailed information available on the website www.walawalkarhospital.com

Anaesthetic fellowship

Duration

This fellowship is for either three or six months at BKL Walawalkar Hospital, Dervan, and India. The fellowship is designed to provide experience in the fields of anaesthesia and intensive care in a rural setting. Scope of anaesthetic practice training will be undertaken using the methods described in the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) anaesthetic curriculum, with inspection of the logbook, and use of the tools such as Anaes-CEX, DOPS and case-based discussion, etc. For out-of-programme training, remote educational supervision will be provided by the RCoA during the training period, where available.

The following are the learning outcomes in anaesthesia:

1. Gain knowledge and skills and experience of the peri-operative anaesthesia care of patients in developing world.
2. To support the specialty of anaesthesia by providing teaching and training to anaesthetists, theatre staff and medical students in a developing world.
3. To understand the level of competency, skill and support that is required to sustain safe and effective provision of anaesthesia in a resource poor setting.
4. Provide educational sessions for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students (including simulation sessions).

The resident doctors at the end of this time at the hospital will:

1. be able to provide safe anaesthesia in a challenging environment with limited resources to a wide variety of patients
2. have enhanced his/her experience in the field of paediatrics, obstetrics, and trauma
3. have experienced working and living in a multi-cultural and frequently multilingual environment and will have developed an approach to planning and practice which emphasises effective communication and team management.

The successful candidate should hold the Primary FRCA or Final FRCA or equivalent qualification and should demonstrate enthusiasm and motivation to organise and lead a team in a busy multilingual environment.

They should display the competency and skill to enable provision of safe anaesthesia in a challenging environment with limited resources. The local population offers a diverse anaesthetic case mix, and much of the theatre work involves routine cases in general surgery, orthopaedics, urology, plastics, and obstetrics and gynaecology. There are currently regular visiting orthopaedic surgeons who perform spinal surgery and general surgeons with interests in onco-surgery. In addition, it is likely that the candidate will gain experience treating patients with malaria, snakebite, scorpion

bites, road traffic accidents, organo-phosphorus compound poisoning, and round worm related intestinal obstruction.

Theatres are equipped with locally made anaesthetic and monitoring equipment, plus equipment donated by hospitals in the Northeast of England (e.g. anaesthetic machines, ventilators, operating tables, etc.). Recently the Hospital has invested in seven new Draeger anaesthetic machines and facilities exist to provide regional blocks under ultrasound guidance, epidural and spinal anaesthetics.

In the past three years, the visiting team has included a pain sister who provided excellent education to the local staff regarding acute pain management, and this is an area requiring further support throughout the year. Multiple other opportunities exist to further develop the safe and efficient delivery of anaesthetic and peri-operative care.

This post includes educational component apart from clinical duties. There are resident anaesthetists at the Hospital who are training in Walawalkar Medical College and Hospital, enrolled to complete MD or DNB in anaesthesia qualification. There were two CT2 trainees in 2019 who successfully worked in the capacity of Educational Fellows at Dervan and enriched their and local staff experience. They have published the QIP in the RCoA International Anaesthetist Newsletter. Also, there is an opportunity to teach anaesthesia nurse practitioners who are on a training programme.

Intensive care experience

In addition, the successful candidate will be expected to:

1. recognise and manage critically unwell medical and surgical patients
2. manage the initial resuscitation of complex patients
3. appropriately request and interpret investigations such as CT, ultrasound, microbiology
4. critically appraise the evidence for specific interventions and investigations in a limited resource environment
5. display appropriate management and leadership skills in the ICU environment, including leading ward rounds and initiating care plans.

Free food and accommodation

The accommodation for visiting staff is of a high standard. The hospital has its own water purification plant, backup generator for power failure and central oxygen supplies. The food is also of high quality (mainly vegetarian).

The village of Dervan is accessible on foot, and there are forts, temples, a river, excellent clean beaches and bird watching opportunities nearby. The hospital has a gymnasium, badminton hall and other outdoor activities (cricket, football, etc.) for staff working at the hospital.

Other duties

The successful candidate will be expected to teach and train medical and postgraduate students, junior doctors in other specialties and nursing staff. Medical students from the Universities of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunderland, and other UK medical students visit Dervan on their eight-week electives, and the successful candidate is expected to support and teach these students within anaesthesia and intensive care. A motivated candidate will find many opportunities to undertake quality improvement projects and audits.

Supervision

The candidate will be expected to be able to work independently after induction and initial exposure and will be supported by local anaesthetic staff members (which includes professor in anaesthesia), and by frequent visits by senior anaesthetic consultants working in Pune and Mumbai. The resident supervisor for this post is Dr Mrs. Suvarna Patil, M.D (Medicine), Medical Director, Consultant Physician/Cardiologist, and Clinical Lead on the Intensive Care Unit.

For resident doctors undertaking out-of-programme training, the RCoA will provide a remote educational supervisor when available. The supervisor will work with you to establish learning objectives prior to the start of the placement and will supervise remotely during the training period.

Closing date and interviews

The closing date for applications for this post is **30th November 2026**.
Candidates will be invited soon after, with the option of interview via Teams/Zoom.

Contacts

For further information, please contact:

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