



GASOC

Travel Fund

2024/2025

Outline Summary



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1 Background

- 1.1 GASOC (Global Anaesthesia, Surgery and Obstetric Collaboration) was established in 2015 to encourage trainees and specialty doctors to engage responsibly and impactfully in global surgery. The organisation's creation was inspired by the launch of the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery in London and the repeated question from trainees present at the meeting 'how can I get involved?' This non-profit organisation acts as an entry-level platform to signpost trainees and specialty doctors to information and resources that will enable them to further their knowledge and experience in this field. The organisation's goal is to increase trainee engagement in global surgery activity during their training and to facilitate career-long leadership commitment post-qualification. To that end, GASOC seeks contributions to a Travel Grant that will assist with travel costs for UK and Ireland based trainees and SCGs to participate in projects in low-and-middle-income countries.
- 1.2 This 2024/2025 Travel Grant has been kindly donated by an anonymous benefactor for the use by the GASOC committee. A sum of £2400 has been donated to contribute to travel expenses for UK and Ireland-based trainees undertaking volunteer placements in low- and middle-income countries. Half of this fund will be used in 2024 to recruit 2 candidates and the other half to contribute a further 2 candidates in 2025.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 The overarching aim of this summary is to ensure these funds are used for the purposes they were given including the equitable distribution to applicants of the GASOC Travel Fund 2024.

3 Actions to be delivered

- 3.1 Primary actions to be delivered:
 - 3.1.1 £600 per grant to be allocated to successful applicants, to be exclusively used to cover personal travel costs of international placement.
 - 3.1.2 Advertisement of the GASOC Travel Grant to occur in the first quarter of 2024, and then again in 2025, inviting suitable candidates to make an application for the grant.
 - 3.1.3 The application process will consist of a Curriculum Vitae, a 300-word statement on why the grant should be given to the candidate and outlining its use.
 - 3.1.4 All candidate applications will be presented to the GASOC committee for voting of the top 2, who will each then be awarded the grant.

- 3.1.5 For selection, there must be the involvement of more than 50% of committee members. The following criteria will be considered for the selection:
- High scientific quality
 - Educational credibility/innovation
 - Potential for long-term population impact
 - Established partnership with LMIC
- 3.1.5 During the entire selection process, all personal details will be removed from the applications to minimise bias.
- 3.1.6 On application, candidates must state the expected duration of the international placement.
- 3.1.7 On application, candidates must provide corroborating evidence regarding their planned placement e.g. letter from the host institution/organisation confirming plans, stated aims and whether there will be payment for the role.
- 3.1.8 Travel must take place within 12 months of receiving the agreement letter for the award and if this does not occur, the entire sum should be returned to the GASOC bank account. This fund is not to be used retrospectively.
- 3.1.9 Successful candidates will need to provide evidence of travel and dates (e.g., flight receipts) within 12 months of the funds' transfer
- 3.1.10 Successful candidates will provide bank account details for fund transfers to GASOC within two weeks from receipt of the agreement letter.
- 3.1.11 GASOC will ensure the transfer of £600 to the successful recipient within 10 working days of receiving the signed agreement form.
- 3.2 If there are fewer than 2 applications, a further advertisement and selection round will occur.
- 3.3 Should any of the GASOC committee wish to apply, they would be required to do so using the process outlined above and will not be part of any of the selection process.

4 Monitoring

- 4.1 All members of the committee commit to ongoing monitoring, with the aim of ensuring accountability and performance.
- 4.2 The Executive Team of GASOC committee will co-ordinate the monitoring and report to the rest of the GASOC committee.

5 Impact evaluation

- 5.1 Evaluation of the value of these grants will be undertaken by requiring each successful candidate to submit a report of their volunteering activities that were undertaken using this grant within 1 calendar month of return from placement.
- 5.2 The Executive Team of GASOC will take responsibility for co-ordinating and reporting on the impact of these grants.

6 Financial contributions

- 6.1 The funds will remain in the GASOC business account and be managed in the first instance by the GASOC Treasurer. The Treasurer will contact the GASOC President or Vice-President if there are any issues.

7 Transparency

- 7.1. The terms stated within this summary will be published on the GASOC website to ensure transparency with the public.