

# Apply today and you could be...

## A Public Health Educator at the Darkhan Health Department in Darkhan, Mongolia

### What's the context and purpose of the role?

In 1990, 70 years of Soviet-style communism were abandoned and replaced by a market economy. Whilst many households have benefited from more liberal policies, one-third of Mongolia's population lives below the poverty line. The old health system was run on the model of treating illness rather than preventative it, and this has contributed to a general lack of healthy living awareness among the population. As a public health educator you'll help to improve the quality of the health education and promotion provided by the Darkhan Health Department at community level. This will involve developing a health promotion campaign focusing on illness prevention in the community and encouraging health professionals to adopt client-centred approaches.

### What does the role involve?

- Supporting the Darkhan Health Department with the planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of a national programme of illness prevention in the community
- Improving health services through strengthening management structures, promoting a client centred approach and building technical skills around nursing
- Promoting the use of information, education and communication materials, and developing appropriate communication channels
- Support the Darkhan Health Department in training trainers in new methodologies to improve the quality of health education in the community



### What skills, experience and personal qualities are needed for the role?

You'll be a qualified health professional (e.g. Midwife, Community Nurse, Medical Doctor) with at least three years' experience of working in the public health sector, preferably in a health education/promotion role. You'll be confident in leading and training others and have experience of working in a community setting. In addition to this, you'll be able to work effectively and creatively with limited resources and have strong interpersonal and communication skills. You'll be proactive and innovative and have the ability to work well in a cross-cultural environment.

### And the rest...

Sandwiched between Russia and China, Mongolia is one of the largest and highest countries in the world, with 40% of its territory covered in mountains. The country has a unique nomadic culture that still forms the backbone of national identity today. 13-20 different ethnic groups live in Mongolia (depending on who you ask) and you'll be able to take part in many festivals, such as Naadam, a summer festival featuring the 'three manly sports'- horse-riding, wrestling and archery, plus storey telling and singing! You'll live in a small but comfortable apartment with central heating in Darkhan, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Mongolia. Every district has markets and small shops for food and other essentials.

We'll ask you to commit to 12 - 24 months to make a sustainable contribution to our development goals. In return, we'll give you comprehensive financial, personal and professional support. We'll provide you with extensive training before your placement, and our financial package includes a local salary, return flights, accommodation, insurance and more. When you return to your home country, we'll help you to resettle and many of our returned volunteers stay involved with us long after their placement ends. [www.vso.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.vso.org.uk/volunteering)