



Guidelines for Taking Equipment to Low Resource Countries

Principles

- Students have altruistic needs
- Host institutions vary in need for equipment
- Equipment quality & availability and protective equipment practices vary widely in institutions in low resource countries

Guidelines

1. PPE & disposables - gloves, masks, eye protection

In general you should adopt the same level of protection against infection disease as you require in Australia. This may entail you taking protective equipment with you. Find out first what the host organisation has and whether they have sufficient resources to provide for you.

2. Gifts of thanks- modest gifts of thanks for your supervisor, institution, elective organiser or hospital ward. This could include a text book, a stethoscope, a washable stuffed Tassie devil for a children's ward.

3. Donated Equipment. You may decide to fund raise and purchase a substantial equipment, e.g. bold glucose meters, ECG machines, lung function spirometers. Find out exactly what you host organisation needs

Issues to consider include:

- Find out what the host organisation really needs
- Repair & maintenance of technical equipment can be difficult in some countries
- Disposables that are required for certain equipment can be expensive and difficult to obtain
- Security is poor in some countries and can result in easy theft of donated equipment
- It is often easier (for transport), cheaper and better for the local economy to but the equipment in the visiting country.

4. Personal physical examination tools- you should take your own stethoscope and diagnostic set

Availability

Some equipment, especially theatre related disposables is available from the Royal Hobart Hospital. This is usually sterile but out of date. Contact Barb Murphy 6222 7857 in the Perioperative Suite if you have specific requests.