

Pieter Haasnoot, the Netherlands

Pieter Haasnoot is a 28 years old Doctor International Health and Tropical Medicine. He is currently completing his training and seeks to work in low resource settings in the near future. His presentation will provide information and insight in the renewed Dutch Doctor International Health and Tropical Medicine training program.

Dutch Doctor in International Health and Tropical Medicine training program

The Dutch training programme “Doctor in International Health and Tropical Medicine (DIHTM)” is unique in the world. This post-graduate training prepares doctors for work at the cross roads of clinical care and public health in an international setting for disadvantaged populations. This field of work requires competences such as creativity, flexibility and determination.

The DIHTM is characterized by the knowledge and skills for making an analysis of the health status and factors influencing this, of individuals and populations, in an international context enabling prioritisation and decision making, particularly in resource poor settings. The DIHTM is able to provide ethically sound and cost-effective preventive and curative care for diseased people (patients) and for healthy people (clients) as well as for groups of people (target groups).

Based on an experience of more than 40 years, the training has evolved into a modern curriculum, based on the CanMeds 7 domains of competences. The recently achieved recognition of the DIHTM by the Royal Dutch Association of Physicians provides an opportunity for further quality assurance in the training programme.

The new programme is built up of 4 components:

- Nine month of clinical training (residential) in surgery, either paediatrics,
- Nine month of clinical training (residential) in gynaecology and obstetrics,
- Additional short training sessions (one day) to gain specific medical skills (for example: ENT, paediatrics, radiology, rehabilitation, fracture management including POP and external fixation workshops, bowel suturing, wound management, eye diseases, etc.)
- The Diploma course (3 months full time) in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT).
- Six month of clinical training (residential) in a resource poor environment.

The training includes clinical parts, international priorities in health care, clinical care, health promotion and prevention, health systems, intercultural aspects of health care, management, governance and advocacy of health. These parts complete the generalist profile of the DIHTM.

What is new in the programme is the clinical training in a low-income country. Collaboration is sought with teaching hospitals to place the trainees. A prerequisite for all the clinical training is high quality supervision, critical for successful training.